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MARVEL
COMICS

STAN LEE
PROUDLY
PRESENTS
THE DAWN
OF A NEW
ERA!

NEAR-EARTH SPACE, ON
THE SHADOW SIDE OF
THE TERMINATOR, RACING
FROM DAY TO NIGHT...

WE'RE
HIT!

A WARNING
SHOT, JUST
TO LET US
KNOW THEY
MEAN
BUSINESS.

WE GET
THE BLOODY
MESSAGE!
SO LET'S DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT,
OKAY?!

WHERE'S
**ASTEROID
M?**

OUR ENTIRE
PLAN WAS
BASED ON
FINDING THAT
ORBITING HUNK
OF ROCK--

--YOU SWORE
YOUR PRECIOUS
SENSORS COULD
DO THE JOB--

--SO WHERE
THE DEVIL
IS IT?!

I DON'T
KNOW!

ALL I'M
SCANNING
IS **EMPTY
SPACE!**

ABSOLUTELY
SPECTACULAR!

I JUST
NAILED ONE
OF THE
PURSUIT
SHIPS.

KILL THE
OTHER
TWO... THEN
WE'LL
CHEER.

CHEYENNE
COMMAND
FROM
STRIKE-
EAGLE
LEADER
DELGADO

...ONE CRAFT LOST...

...FUGITIVES
REFUSING TO
ANSWER HAILS.
MUCH LESS
SURRENDER.

REQUESTING
RELEASE TO
RETURN FIRE.

STUFF
PERMISSION,
HARRY

JUST
FRY
THE
SWINE.

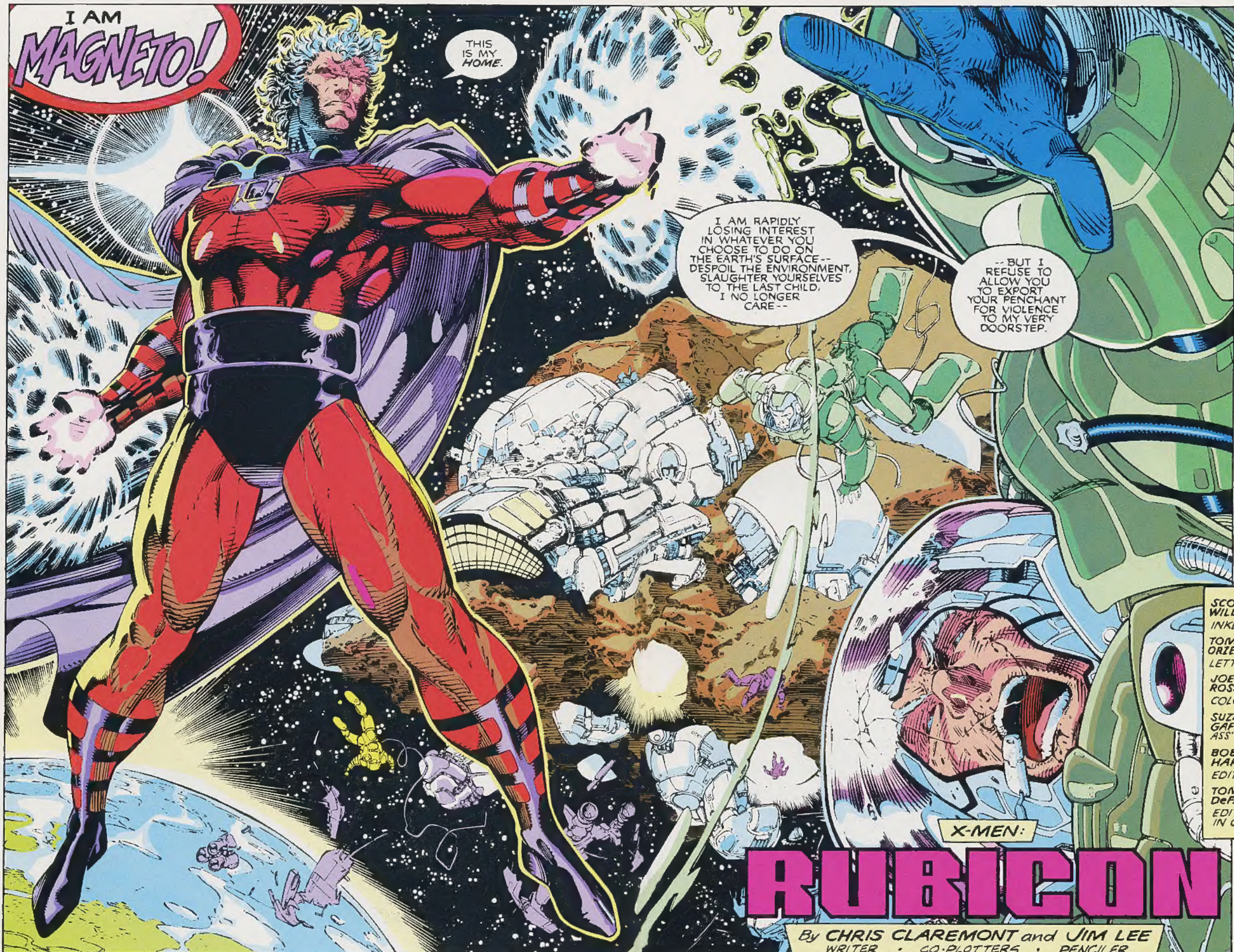
A HUNDRED-
FIFTY MILES
ABOVE MOTHER
RUSSIA, NANCE?

REAL EASY
WAY TO
START A
WORLD
WAR.

SKIPPER,
I'M RECORDING
MASSIVE SPIKES,
ALL ACROSS THE
ELECTROMAGNETIC
SPECTRUM! LOSING
COHERENCE ON
ALL INTERNAL
ELECTRONICS!

SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING
UP AHEAD!

THAT
FLASH OF
LIGHT!



I AM
MAGNETO!

THIS
IS MY
HOME.

I AM RAPIDLY
LOSING INTEREST
IN WHATEVER YOU
CHOOSE TO DO ON
THE EARTH'S SURFACE--
DESPOIL THE ENVIRONMENT,
SLAUGHTER YOURSELVES
TO THE LAST CHILD,
I NO LONGER
CARE--

-- BUT I
REFUSE TO
ALLOW YOU
TO EXPORT
YOUR PENCHANT
FOR VIOLENCE
TO MY VERY
DOORSTEP.

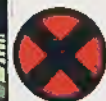
X-MEN:

RUBICON

By CHRIS CLAREMONT and JIM LEE
WRITER • CO-PLOTTERS • PENCILER

SCOTT
WILLIAMS
INKER
TOM
ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER
JOE
ROSAS
COLORIST
SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
ASS'T. EDITOR
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR
TOM
DeFALCO
EDITOR
IN CHIEF

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YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US TO DIE!

DID I GIVE THAT IMPRESSION? SUCH IS NOT MY INTENTION, SINCE IT WOULD MERELY PROVOKE INEVITABLE EVER-ESCALATING RETALIATION.

I SHALL SIMPLY RETURN YOU ALL TO THE SURFACE, TO CONVEY MY WARNING THAT NEXT TIME, I SHALL NOT BE SO CHARITABLE.

No!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

YOU CAN'T SEND US BACK, IT'S YOU WE CAME TO FIND!

LORD MAGNETO, WE'RE MUTANTS LIKE YOU!

WE'VE COME TO SERVE, TO PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO YOUR GLORIOUS CAUSE!

THOSE DAYS ARE DONE, WOMAN. THAT MAN IS NO MORE.

IN MERCY'S NAME, YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

CAN YOU ABANDON THEM? CAN YOU DENY YOUR DESTINY?!

STAR CITY COSMODROME, BAIKONUR--

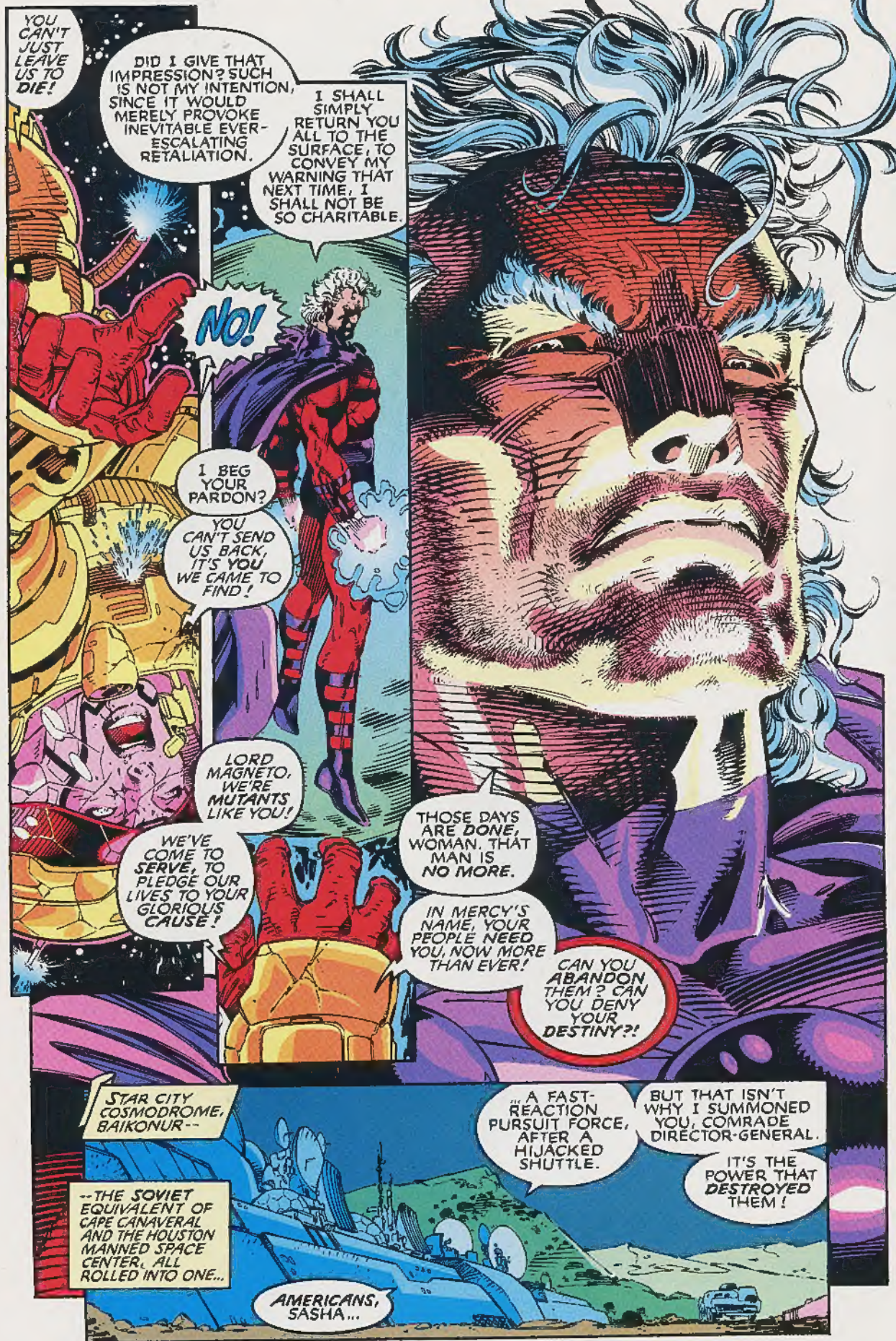
--THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF CAPE CANAVERAL AND THE HOUSTON MANNED SPACE CENTER, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...

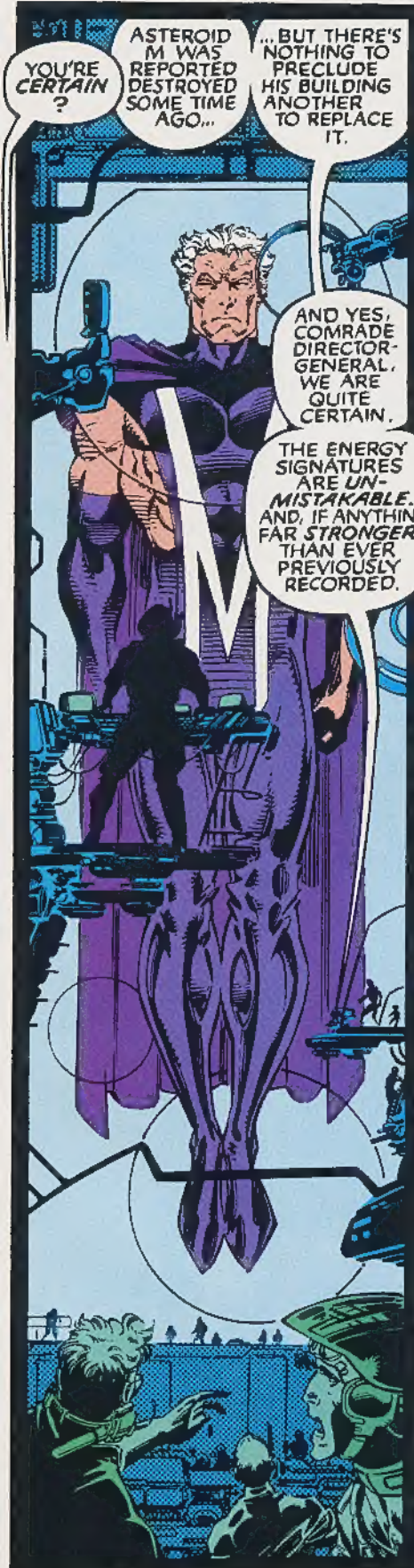
A FAST-REACTION PURSUIT FORCE, AFTER A HIJACKED SHUTTLE.

BUT THAT ISN'T WHY I SUMMONED YOU, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

IT'S THE POWER THAT DESTROYED THEM!

AMERICANS, SASHA...





YOU'RE CERTAIN?

ASTEROID M WAS REPORTED DESTROYED SOME TIME AGO...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO PRECLUDE HIS BUILDING ANOTHER TO REPLACE IT.

AND YES, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN.

THE ENERGY SIGNATURES ARE UNMISTAKABLE. AND, IF ANYTHING, FAR STRONGER THAN EVER PREVIOUSLY RECORDED.



IT IS MAGNETO.

AND, IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, HE IS MAINTAINING THAT ACCURSED ROCK IN A SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT...

...TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY KILOMETERS ABOVE OUR HEADS.



WE HAVE NO CHOICE THEN.

NOTIFY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

WE ARE INITIATING STAGE ONE OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.



A PRUDENT MOVE, IN MY ESTIMATION, COLONEL FURY.

WERE ASTEROID M OVER OUR HEADS, I'D BE INCLINED TO DO THE SAME.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THOSE WERE AMERICAN SHUTTLES HE DESTROYED.



IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, IN FACT, THAT THE TERRORISTS WHO HIJACKED OUR VEHICLE...

...LOOK TO HIM AS THEIR INSPIRATION.

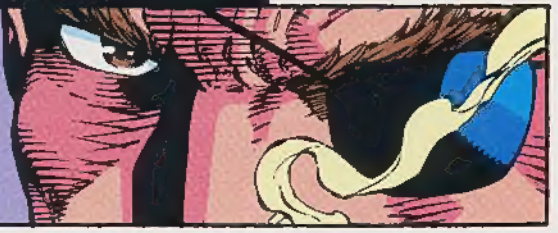
SUPPOSE HE MAKES THEIR CAUSE HIS OWN?

IF THE SOVIETS ACT LIKE HOTHEADS, MISTER PRESIDENT...

...THEY COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.



YOU HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE?



FORTY MILES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY, JUST SHY OF THE CONNECTICUT BORDER, A COUPLE OF MILES DOWN GRAYMALKIN LANE FROM THE TOWN OF SALEM CENTER...

...ON THE GROUNDS OF AN ESTATE THAT PREDATES THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (WHEN THIS COULD STILL BE CALLED "INDIAN COUNTRY")...

...STANDS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

A VERY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

FOR VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE.

BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE AS THE X-MEN.

PART OF WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL IS THAT THEY'RE MUTANTS...

...BORN WITH PARANORMAL ABILITIES THAT SET THEM APART FROM THE GENERAL RUN OF HUMANITY.

AND PART IS WHAT THEY CHOOSE TO DO WITH THOSE POWERS.

ASSAULT GROUP "A" ON-SCREEN, CYCLOPS--

--CONSISTING OF ROGUE, ICEMAN, ARCHANGEL AND COLOSSUS.

THANKS, BEAST.

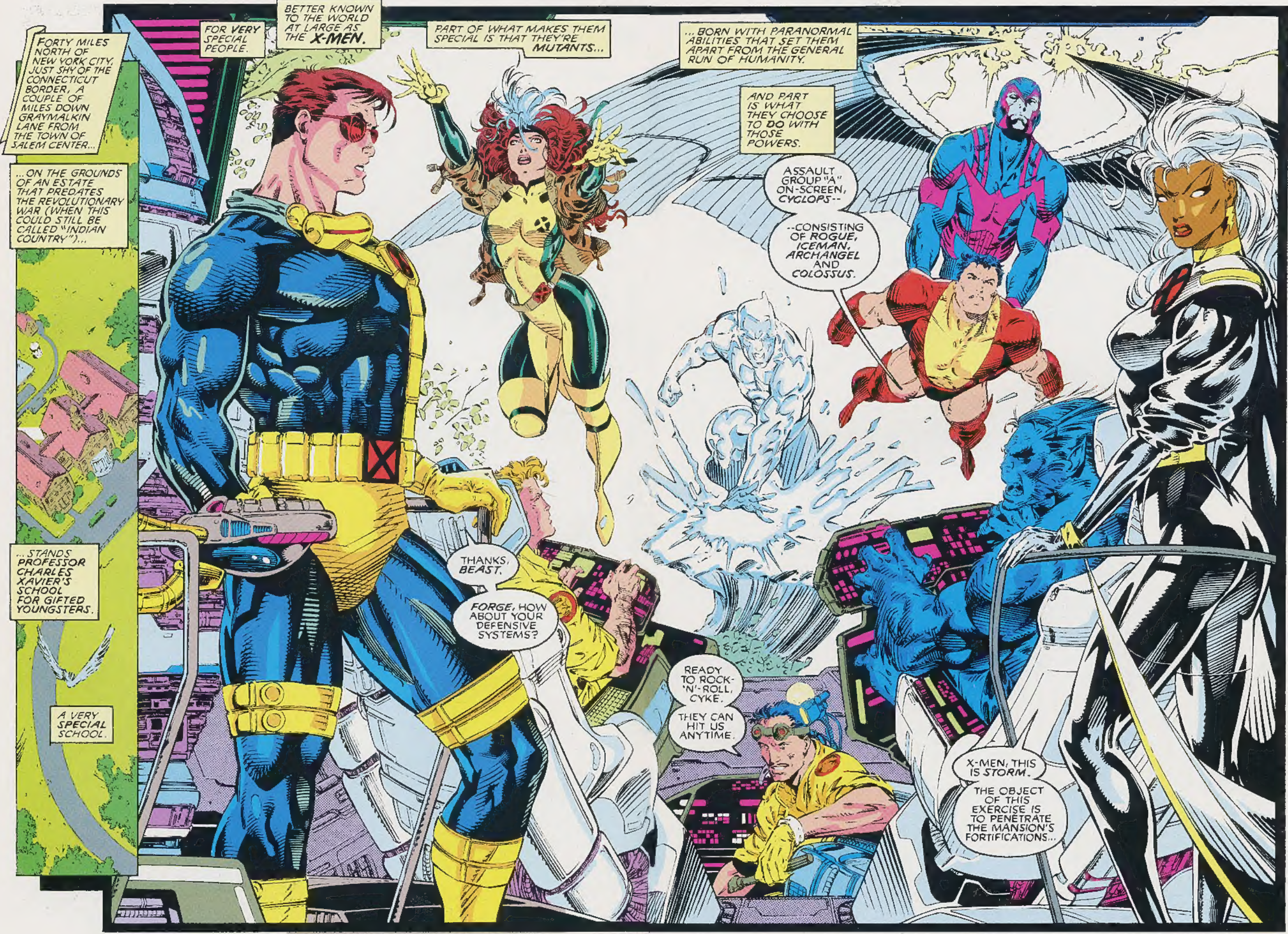
FORGE, HOW ABOUT YOUR DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS?

READY TO ROCK-'N'-ROLL, CYKE.

THEY CAN HIT US ANYTIME.

X-MEN, THIS IS STORM.

THE OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO PENETRATE THE MANSION'S FORTIFICATIONS...



"-- AND THEN LOCATE-- AND 'CAPTURE'-- PROFESSOR X."

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.

WHAT IS THE SAYING, JEAN-- "PLUS CE CHANGE, PLUS CE MEME CHOSE?"

"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME."

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS LAST IN THIS MANSION. AND TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN--INCLUDING MYSELF--

--IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH WE WERE ALL COMING TOGETHER...

FOR THE FIRST TIME.



I NEED TO LEARN THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES, HOW YOU MESH AS A TEAM, HOW BEST FOR ME TO INTERACT WITH YOU.

NOW, WE PICK UP THE PIECES.

GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.

I HAVE BEEN AWAY SO LONG, JEAN.

I LOOK AT THE WORLD, AND CANNOT HELP WONDERING...

IF IT DIDN'T...

...WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.

...IF MY DREAM HAS ANY VALIDITY ANYMORE.

AND, ULTIMATELY, WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

ALL OUR WORK, OUR EFFORTS--

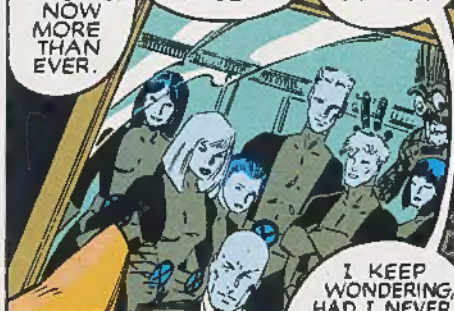
-- I KEPT HOPING THE WORLD WOULD RESPOND BY BECOMING A GENTLER, MORE TOLERANT PLACE...

...WITH BRIDGES BUILT BETWEEN HUMANITY AND ITS MUTANT OFFSPRING.

INSTEAD, WE SEEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US SHARPENED TO A KILLING EDGE.

WITH SOME OF THE CHILDREN ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE BURIED.



I KEEP WONDERING, HAD I NEVER LEFT, COULD I HAVE SOMEHOW PREVENTED THIS FROM HAPPENING.



YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT BEST, CHARLES...

...AS DID WE.

HEADS UP,
POPSICLE!

MISSILES
COMIN' AT US.
FROM ALL
AROUND THE
CLOCK!

Ahhh,
CRIPES!

ROGUE, THEY'RE
INCENDIARIES.
MELTING MY ICE-
SLIDE AS WELL
AS SMASHING IT!

I CAN'T
GENERATE A
NEW ONE!

HANG
LOOSE,
SUGAH--

--LEMMIE
HANDLE
THIS.

HUNTER
SYSTEMS
LOCKIN' ON MY
BIO-SIGNATURE,
JUS' LIKE AH
FIGURED.

WHICH
MEANS THEY'LL
FOLLOW ME
WHEREVER
AH RUN.

SIMPLEST
SOLUTION IS TO
BOOGIE AT TOP
SPEED, FASTER'N
THEY CAN CATCH
ME, 'TIL THE POOR
DEARS RUN OUT
O' GAS.

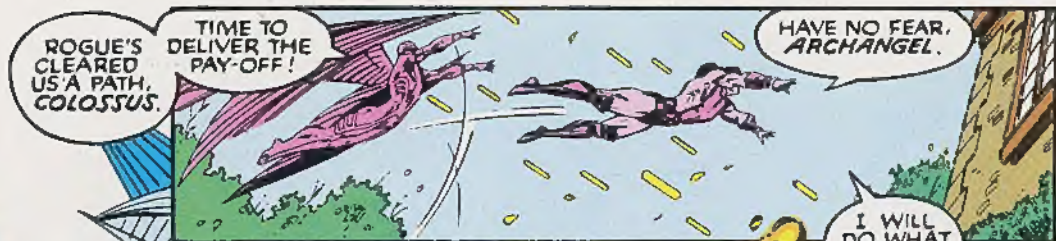
BUT
THAT'D TAKE
ME OUT O'
THE FIGHT AS
WELL.

AH LIKE
THIS IDEA
BETTER.

AH CALL IT,
"RETURN T'
SENDER!"

BYE-BYE
MISSILES.
BYE-BYE
LAUNCHERS.

AH DO SO LOVE IT WHEN
A PLAY COMES T'GETHER!

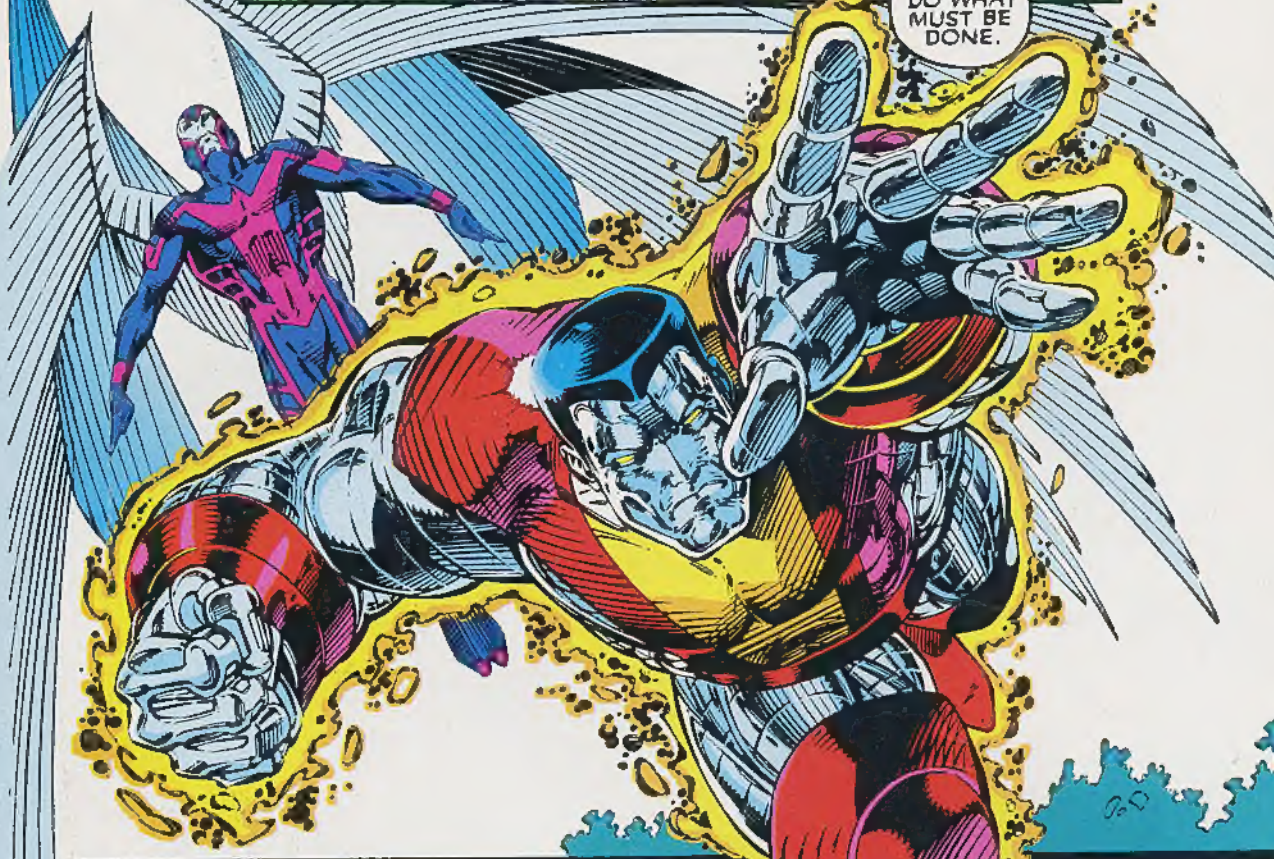


ROGUE'S
CLEARED
US A PATH,
COLOSSUS.

TIME TO
DELIVER THE
PAY-OFF!

HAVE NO FEAR,
ARCHANGEL.

I WILL
DO WHAT
MUST BE
DONE.



FOR WHAT
IT'S WORTH,
O FEARLESS
LEADER--

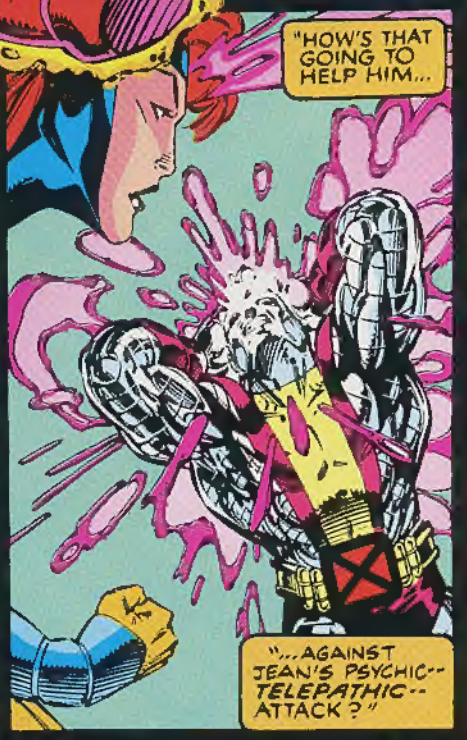
--GIVEN
ARCH-
ANGEL'S
SPEED AND
COLOSSUS'
MASS--



"--OUR ARMORED RUSSIAN
COMRADE WOULD MAKE A
FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE
WRECKING BALL."

"PROBABLY
DEMOLISH
THE MANSION,
ALL BY
HIMSELF."

"THAT'S A
PHYSICAL
POWER, HANK."



"HOW'S THAT
GOING TO
HELP HIM..."

"...AGAINST
JEAN'S PSYCHIC--
TELEPATHIC--
ATTACK?"



I'VE
READIN'S
NOW.
BOYO, ON
ASSAULT
"BRAVO"...

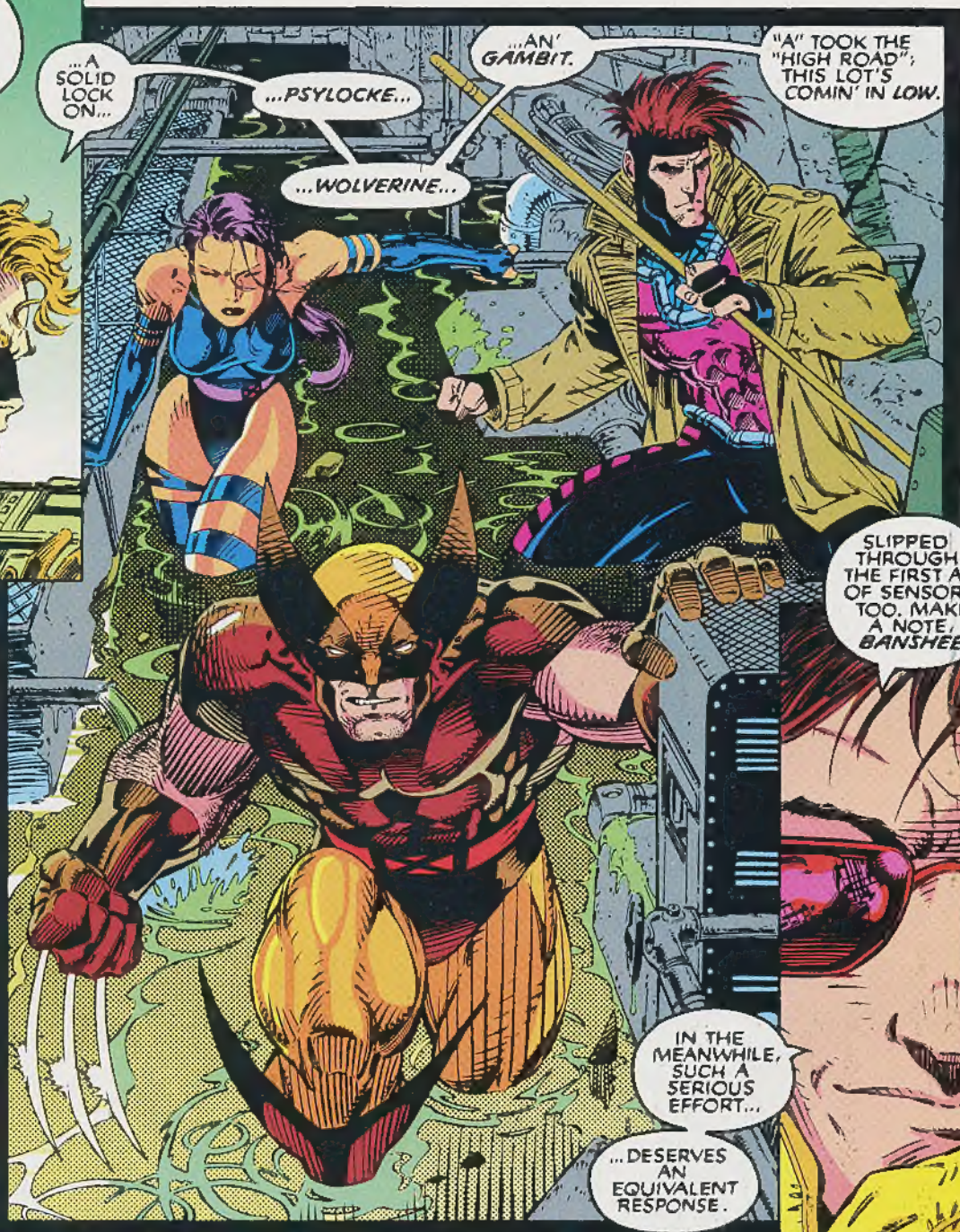
...A
SOLID
LOCK
ON...

...PSYLOCKE...

...WOLVERINE...

...AN'
GAMBIT.

"A" TOOK THE
"HIGH ROAD";
THIS LOT'S
COMIN' IN LOW.



SLIPPED
THROUGH
THE FIRST ARC
OF SENSORS,
TOO. MAKE
A NOTE,
BANSHEE.

IN THE
MEANWHILE,
SUCH A
SERIOUS
EFFORT...

...DESERVES
AN
EQUIVALENT
RESPONSE.



YOUR
PARDON,
MES
BRAVES...

...BUT I THINK
WE BEEN
SPOTTED,
YES?

SO DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE
LOOKIN'
PRETTY,
CAJUN...

...ACE THESE
SUCKERS!

I FEAR, MY
FRIEND...

...YOUR
ADMONITION
IS A WASTE
OF BREATH.

AWFULLY
CONSIDER-
ATE OF
CYCLOPS,
DON'T YOU
THINK...

...TO FACE US
WITH OPPOSITION
THAT EVEN MY
PHYSICAL STRENGTH
IS CAPABLE OF
DISABLING.

MAN'S
ALL HEART,
BETTS.

AS MUCH
AS GAMBIT
IS BRASS.

WE'RE S'POSED
T' BE WORKIN'
T'GETHER, AS A
TEAM!

BUT WHAT
THE HECK...

.. MAN
WANTS TO
PLAY
LONE-
WOLF...

".. HE CAN TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES."

ROGUE EVADED THE
FIRST WAVE OF MISSILES,
O FEARLESS, AND TOOK
OUT THEIR LAUNCHERS...

...BUT NOT
THE SECOND.
SHE'S DOWN
AND OUT.

POSITIVE
TRACK STILL ON
WOLVERINE AND
PSYLOCKE. HOWEVER...

".. THE 'INTERNAL SCANNERS' APPEAR TO HAVE MISPLACED
GAMBIT."

"ANYONE CARE TO SPECULATE ON
WHERE HE'S GONE?"

BONJOUR,
CHERE.



WITH A SPEED THAT
DEFIES DESCRIPTION,
AND A SMILE GUARAN-
TEED TO MELT THE
FIERCEST HEART...

...THE ACADIAN DRAWS
A PLAYING CARD FROM
THE DECK HE ALWAYS
CARRIES.

IN ONE SMOOTH
MOVEMENT, HE
CHARGES IT WITH
KINETIC ENERGY
(HIS MUTANT
POWER) AND
LETS IT FLY.

ON IMPACT, THE
WALL BEHIND
JEAN DETONATES
WITH THE FORCE
OF A SMALL BOMB.

LA TOURNEMENT
EST FINIT, CHERE

I
WIN.

TIME TO
CLAIM MY
PRIZE--

--Eh???

BANG!

UNDER
THE RULES,
GAMBIT...

I KNOW,
CYCLOPS

JE SUIT MORT--
I AM NOW DEAD



AS I ALWAYS
SUSPECTED...

...REDHEADS, THEY
HAVE A DYNAMITE
KISS



...MIGHT I
REMINDE
YOU ALL...

...THAT THE
EXERCISE IS
FAR FROM...



AT YOUR
OWN
RISK, MY
FRIEND.

I MUST CONFESS,
INFURIATING AND
ARROGANT AS
GAMBIT CAN BE...

...THOSE EYES, THAT
GRIN, THE BODY-- IT
TAKES A GIRL'S
BREATH AWAY.

Oh,
REALLY?

WHEN NEXT THE
OPPORTUNITY PRE-
SENTS ITSELF...

REMINDE
ME TO DROP
A TRUCK
ON HIM.

CYCLOPS.

A BIG
TRUCK.

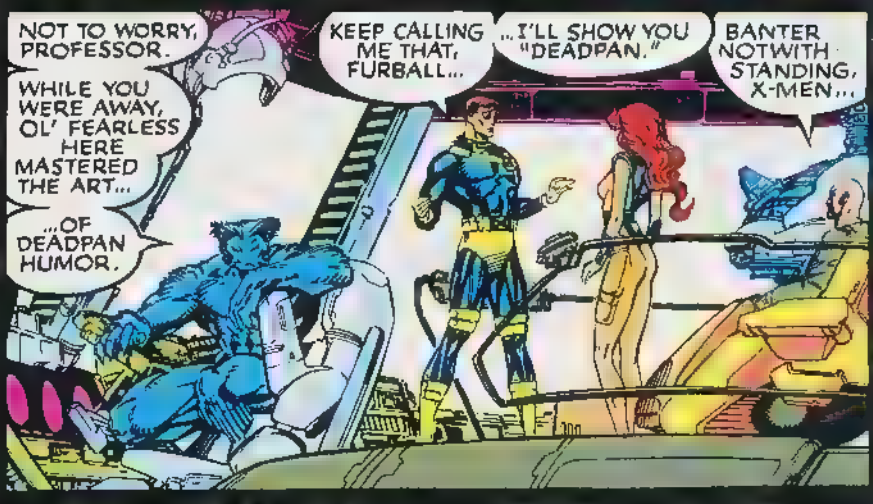
CYCLOPS!

A REALLY
BIG
TRUCK

CYCLOPS!



...OVER!



NOT TO WORRY,
PROFESSOR.

KEEP CALLING
ME THAT,
FURBALL...

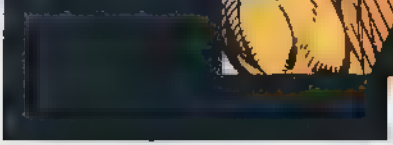
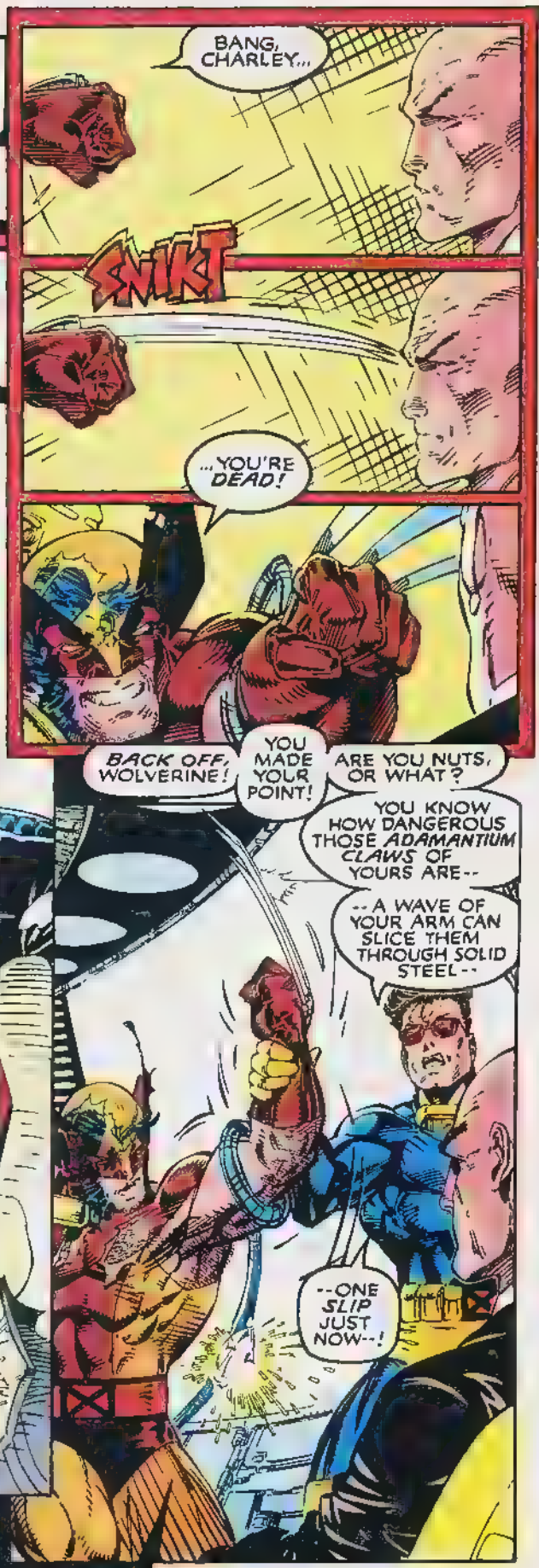
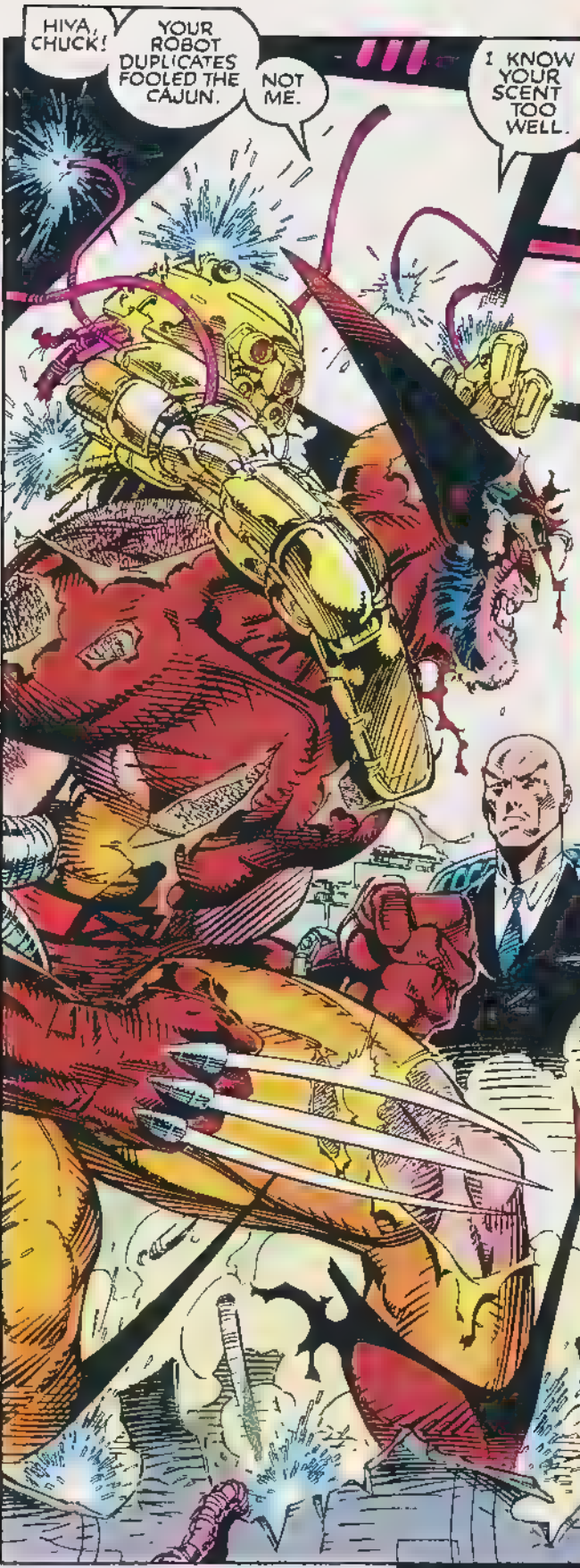
...I'LL SHOW YOU
"DEADPAN."

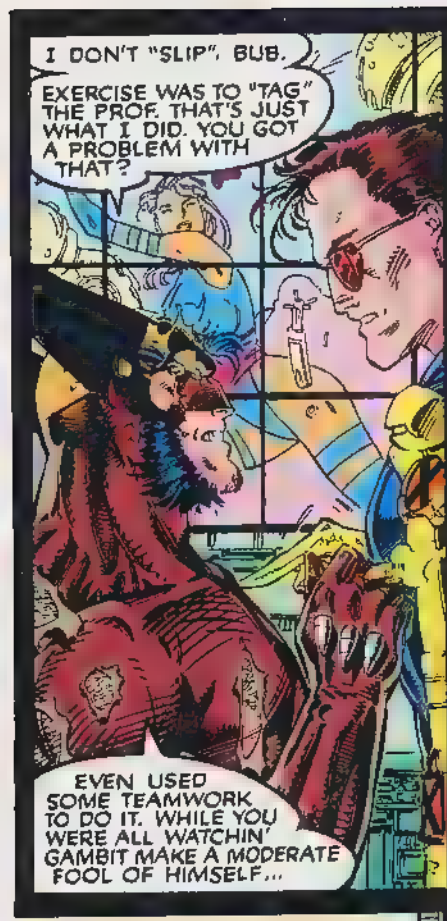
BANTER
NOTWITH-
STANDING,
X-MEN...

WHILE YOU
WERE AWAY,
OL' FEARLESS
HERE
MASTERED
THE ART...

...OF
DEADPAN
HUMOR.

SLAK!

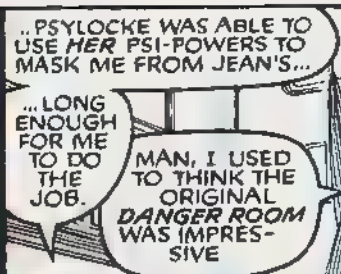




I DON'T "SLIP", BUB.

EXERCISE WAS TO "TAG" THE PROF. THAT'S JUST WHAT I DID. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

EVEN USED SOME TEAMWORK TO DO IT. WHILE YOU WERE ALL WATCHIN' GAMBIT MAKE A MODERATE FOOL OF HIMSELF...



...PSYLOCKE WAS ABLE TO USE HER PSI-POWERS TO MASK ME FROM JEAN'S...

...LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THE JOB.

MAN, I USED TO THINK THE ORIGINAL DANGER ROOM WAS IMPRESSIVE

NO COMPARISON, WINGS. THIS IS STATE OF THE ART.

IT'LL REPLICATE ANY ENVIRONMENT AND SITUATION WE CAN IMAGINE.



IN A LOT OF WAYS, AN ILLUSION MORE REAL THAN LIFE ITSELF.

ME, I WOULDN'T MIND SOME REAL LIFE FOR A CHANGE I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN BUSTING OUR BUTTS FOR DAYS!

"WHEN'S IT GOING TO END?"

WHEN WE GET IT RIGHT, ICEMAN.

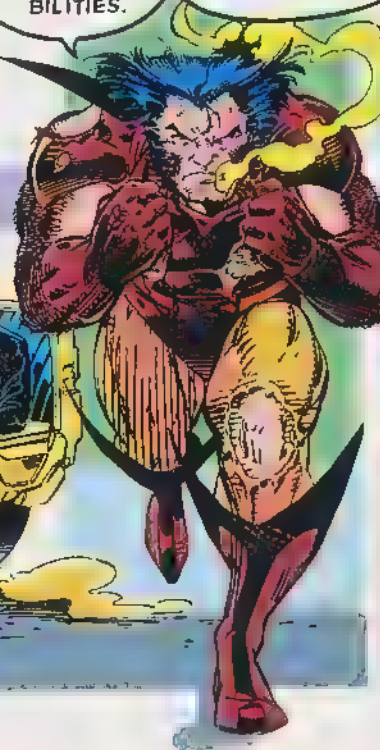
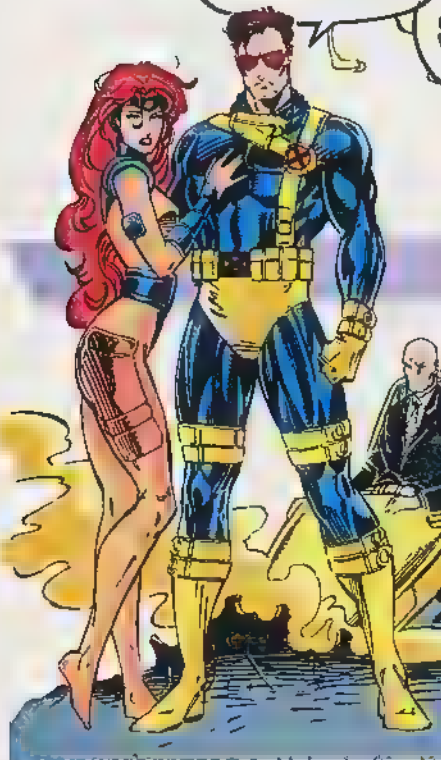
THE WORLD'S CHANGED, PEOPLE. THE STAKES ARE HIGHER, THE DANGERS GREATER WE HAVE TO BE EQUAL TO THEM.

SAVE THE SPEECH, SUMMERS. WE'RE NONE OF US KIDS, WE KNOW OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOU WANT TO RUN MORE SCENARIOS, CALL UP MY DANGER ROOM DOPPELGANGER FROM THE MASTER COMPUTER FILE.

ME, I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO.

THAT IDIOT--! SOME THINGS, I GUESS, NEVER CHANGE.



THAT'S A FACT

LATER...

ASTEROID M IS STILL CLOAKED BUT WE THINK IT'S STILL HOLDING ORBIT OVER THE EURASIAN HEMISPHERE.

SOVIETS AIN'T AT ALL HAPPY ABOUT THAT. THEY'VE PLEDGED NOT TO ACT UNLESS PROVOKED...

...BUT THEY'RE ON A HAIR-TRIGGER THRESHOLD

WHY?

WHAT'S HE DONE?!

A FIGHT STARTED ON HIS DOORSTEP. HE PUT A STOP TO IT. FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS, ALL THE SURVIVORS ARE PRETTY MUCH OKAY.

WAY YOU TALK, NICHOLAS. FOLKS EXPECT HIM TO START NUKIN' MAMA RUSSIA ANY MOMENT.

THERE'S PRECEDENT FOR THEIR CONCERN, ROGUE

AND FOR GIVING HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, SCOTT. REMEMBER, HE WAS OUR ALLY

NO FOOLIN'?. AN' THERE, I THOUGHT ALL THIS TIME MAGNETO WAS A MAN

WE'VE ALL GOT SHADOWS IN OUR PAST...

THE ONE INDISPUTABLE REALITY, WOLVERINE, IS THE **POWER** MAGNETO POSSESSES. WHETHER USED FOR GOOD OR ILL, IT MUST BE RESPECTED.

AND WHILE I HOPE FERVENTLY FOR THE ONE...

...WE MUST BE FULLY PREPARED TO CONFRONT THE OTHER

AND BEFORE THAT, STORM, THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE. LEOPARDS DON'T CHANGE THEIR SPOTS

WE'VE ALL BEEN BRANDED OUTLAWS.

I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL, CYCLOPS, TO SPLIT THE X-MEN INTO TWO STRIKE TEAMS.

THAT WILL ALLOW US A GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR RESPONSE TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

IN THE MEANWHILE, COLONEL FURY, WE WILL SEARCH OUR FILES FOR ANY DATA ON MAGNETO THAT MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL. SHOULD YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE...

I KNOW THE NUMBER.

KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED...

"...MAYBE
I WON'T
NEED TO
USE IT"

WHERE THE
DEVIL--?!

ASTEROID M, DEKE,
HAS TO BE!

WHEN MAGNETO
SMASHED OUR
SHUTTLE, HE MUST'VE
BROUGHT US ABOARD!

A MORE
GENEROUS--
FOOLISH
GESTURE--

...THAN ANY
OF
URRRK!

THOSE WERE GOOD
PEOPLE YOU KILLED
ON MY WINGSHIP,
MUTIE...

...AND GOOD
ONES YOU KILLED
ON THE GROUND
WHEN YOU STOLE
THAT SHUTTLE

WHATEVER
IT TAKES, I'LL
SEE YOU PAY
FOR THAT!

UNLIKELY,
FLATSCAN.
ONCE I--

-- MY
POWER?!

NOTHING'S
HAPPENING?!?

NOW AIN'T THAT
A CRYIN' SHAME!

I GOT
HER,
HARRY!

BIG MAN MUST'VE
ESTABLISHED AN
INHIBITOR FIELD,
TO NEUTRALIZE ANY
SUPER-BEINGS OR
MUTANTS WHO
COME CALLING.

PROBABLY
DOES THE
SAME TO
STANDARD
COMBAT
ARMOR

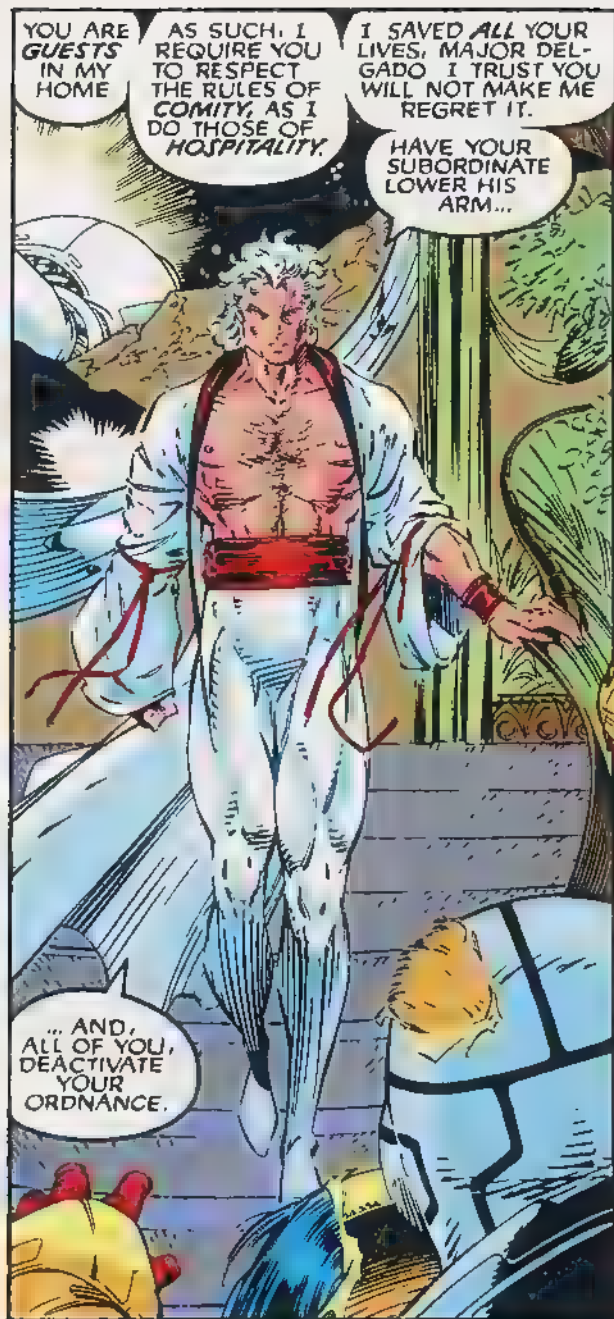
UNFORTUNATELY,
OUR SUITS WERE
DESIGNED WITH
PRECISELY THAT
LIKELIHOOD
IN MIND.

THE WEAPONS
SYSTEMS, AS YOU
CAN SEE, ARE
QUITE ACTIVE.

EVERYBODY RELAX,
EVERYBODY BEHAVE.

THE
SITUATION'S
UNDER
CONTROL.

WHAT IS THE
MEANING
OF THIS?!



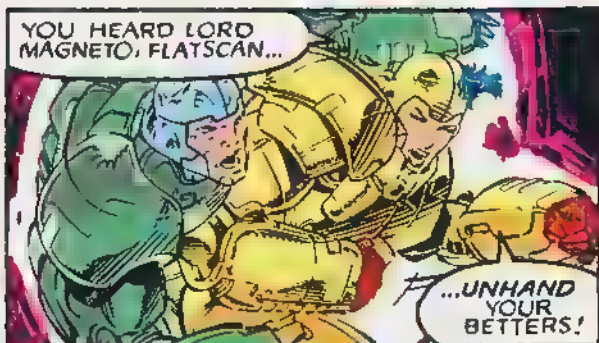
YOU ARE GUESTS IN MY HOME

AS SUCH, I REQUIRE YOU TO RESPECT THE RULES OF COMITY, AS I DO THOSE OF HOSPITALITY.

I SAVED ALL YOUR LIVES, MAJOR DELGADO. I TRUST YOU WILL NOT MAKE ME REGRET IT.

HAVE YOUR SUBORDINATE LOWER HIS ARM...

... AND, ALL OF YOU, DEACTIVATE YOUR ORDNANCE.



YOU HEARD LORD MAGNETO, FLATSCAN...

...UNHAND YOUR BETTERS!



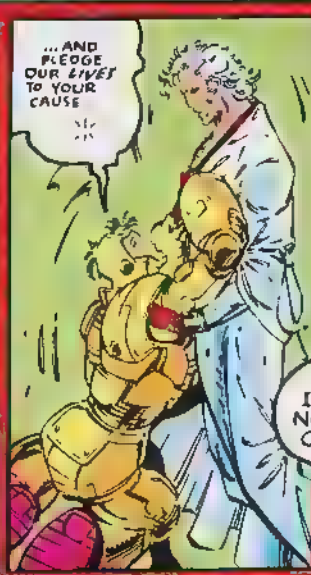
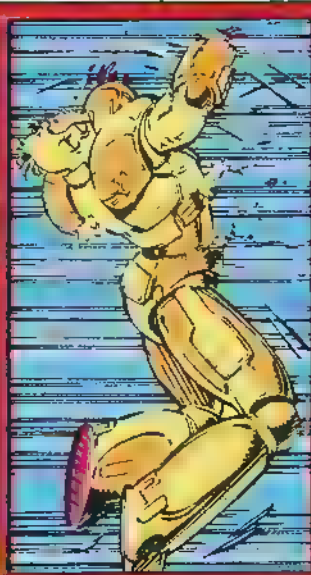
WE COME SEEKING SANCTUARY, MY LORD!

WE PLACE OURSELVES UNDER YOUR PROTECTION...



LIKE HECK YOU WILL!

DEKE -- NO -- DON'T!



... AND PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO YOUR CAUSE



BUT... I HAVE NO MORE CAUSE



I WARNED YOU!

YOUR MECHANISMS ARE QUITE IMPRESSIVELY SHIELDED, THAT IS TRUE.

BUT I AM THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM.

I DRAW ON THE PRIMAL FORCES OF THE EARTH ITSELF.



IT IS CHILD'S-PLAY TO SUBVERT YOUR POWER SUIT'S ELECTRONICS...

M-MY ARM-- MY GUN--!

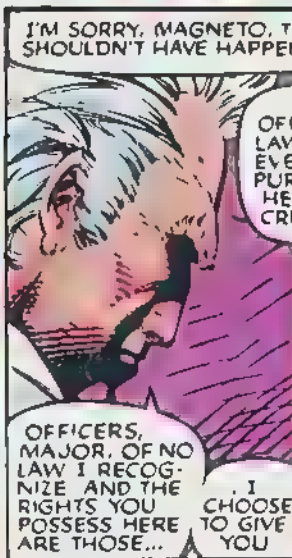
I CAN'T STOP IT!

HARRY-- NANCE-- HELP ME!



AND BEND ITS SYSTEMRY TO MY WILL

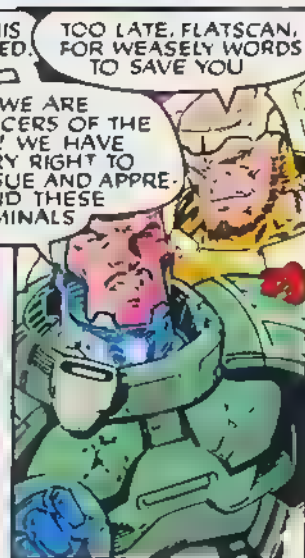
ARGH!



I'M SORRY, MAGNETO, THIS SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

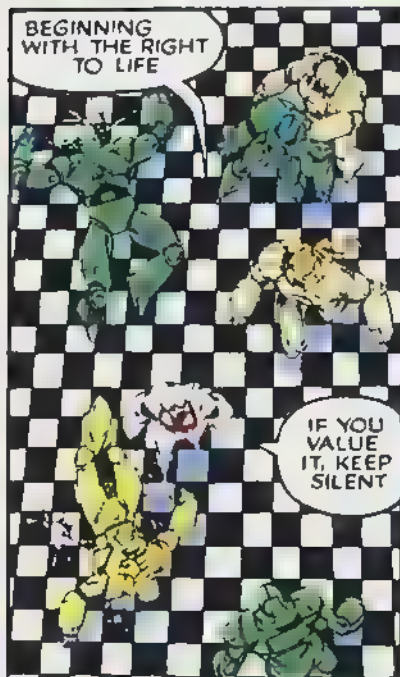
OFFICERS, MAJOR, OF NO LAW I RECOGNIZE AND THE RIGHTS YOU POSSESS HERE ARE THOSE...

I CHOOSE TO GIVE YOU



TOO LATE, FLATSCAN, FOR WEASELY WORDS TO SAVE YOU

WE ARE OFFICERS OF THE LAW! WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO PURSUE AND APPREHEND THESE CRIMINALS



BEGINNING WITH THE RIGHT TO LIFE

IF YOU VALUE IT, KEEP SILENT



DREAD LORD, I AM FABIAN CORTEZ.

FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, I SHARE YOUR GRIEF, ANNEMARIE WAS A VALUED COMRADE

...BUT YOU MUST KNOW THE GREAT POWERS BELOW WILL OF A CERTAINITY REACT TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE

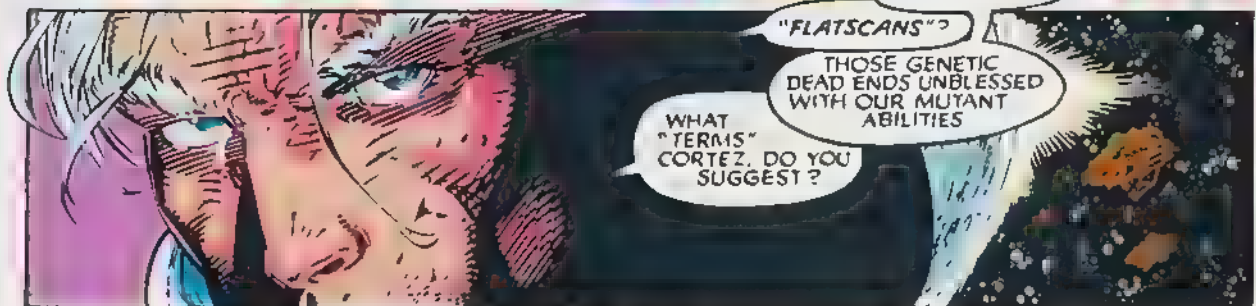
THEY WILL DO SO TO THEIR REGRET



LORD, WE KNOW YOUR STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR ANY POWERS THEY MARSHAL AGAINST YOU, BUT ALL THEY WILL SEE IS A LONE MAN

FOR DETERANCE TO BE CREDIBLE

IT MUST BE COUCHED IN TERMS THOSE FLATSCANS UNDERSTAND



"FLATSCANS"?

THOSE GENETIC DEAD ENDS UNBLESSED WITH OUR MUTANT ABILITIES

WHAT "TERMS" CORTEZ, DO YOU SUGGEST?

XAVIER'S SCHOOL.

I HAVE A CONTACT SIGNAL FROM CEREPRO.

ITS SCANNING ARRAY HAS IDENTIFIED MAGNETO'S ENERGY SIGNATURE, ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

ALERT YOUR "BLUE" TEAM, CYCLOPS

I WILL HOLD STORM'S "GOLD" TEAM IN RESERVE

ON OUR WAY, PROFESSOR!

ACTION STATIONS, ME HEARTIES!

TIME-- TO QUOTE THE VERNACULAR-- TO "ROCK-N'-ROLL"!

THIS ISN'T THE DANGER ROOM ANYMORE, FURBALL

AND NO FALSE ALARM, EITHER; THE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS I RECEIVE FROM PROFESSOR X ARE DEADLY SERIOUS

ALL THE MORE REASON, DON'T YOU THINK.

TO MAINTAIN A HUMOROUS PERSPECTIVE?

WOO-MEEEE!

CHECK OUT THE SPIFFY SET O' WINGS!

WHEN THE PROF ASKED FORGE T' DESIGN AN' BUILD US A NEW BLACKBIRD...

THE MAN DID HIMSELF PROUD!

BAG THE BANTER, PEOPLE, AND GET ABOARD!

WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!

"PROF SAYS
SOMETHING
BIG IS
HAPPENING
IN MID-
ATLANTIC!"

MOMENTS AGO,
HE STOOD AT
THE BOTTOM OF
THE OCEAN...

... LITERALLY MILES BENEATH ITS
SURFACE, IN A REALM OF AWFUL
DARKNESS AND ABYSMAL COLD,
AS ALIEN AND HOSTILE AS ANY
FOREIGN PLANET.

STOOD AND
STARED AT HIS
HANDIWORK

AND REMEMBERED...

... A DAY LONG PAST
WHEN, IN HIS ARRO-
GANCE, HE COMMANDED
THE GREAT POWERS
OF THE WORLD TO
DISARM THEIR
NUCLEAR ARSENALS

HIS GOAL WAS NOBLE, OR
SO HE THOUGHT, TO
REMOVE FOREVER FROM
ALL PEOPLE-- MUTANTS
AND BASELINE HUMANS--
THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR
ANNIHILATION.

THE GOVERNMENTS
HE CHALLENGED
DIDN'T SEE IT
THAT WAY.

HE DEFLECTED
THE ATTACK...

AND
THEN,
AS AN
OBJECT
LESSON...

THE SOVIET
UNION ORDERED
AN IMMEDIATE
COUNTER-STRIKE...

... FROM THE
FLEET
BALLISTIC
MISSILE
SUBMARINE
LENINGRAD.

... SANK THE
VESSEL THAT
LAUNCHED IT.

WATER PRESSURE CRUSHED THE SUB-MARINE'S HULL...

...BUT NOT SO THE LAUNCH TUBES OF CASE-HARDENED STEEL.

SOME OF THE MISSILES WERE DAMAGED, BUT A SURPRISING NUMBER HE DISCOVERS REMAIN INTACT

BEEN A WHILE, MAGNETO.

NEVER CALLED, NEVER WROTE, AH WAS STARTIN' T' FIGURE YOU'D FORGOTTEN ALL 'BOUT ME.

THAT'S NO WAY FOR FRIENDS TO ACT

HELLO, ROGUE.

YOU RAISE THIS WRECK OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART, MAGS--

--FIGURIN' MAYBE T' GIVE THESE SAILOR BOYS A DECENT BURIAL--

--OR WHAT?

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT CONSIDERS HIMSELF A PRUDENT MAN...

...WHO PERHAPS PRAYS FOR THE BEST, BUT IS ALWAYS READY FOR THE WORST

I SUNK LENINGRAD AS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE, WOLVERINE.

I RESURRECT IT FOR THE SAME REASON.

WE DON'T THREATEN YOU, MAGNETO, NOBODY DOES.

AND NOW, CHILD, NOBODY WILL.

OR WHAT, YOU GONNA NUKE 'EM?

I AM NO DIFFERENT

THAT, CYCLOPS, IS QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT WERE I THE CONSUMMATE VILLAIN YOU DEVOUTLY BELIEVE ME TO BE...

DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU

GREAT!

I STAND CORRECT-ED!

NOW HOW ABOUT ONE OF YOUR PATENTED NIFTY MOVES

TO HELP US OUT OF THIS MESS!

...I WOULD DESTROY YOUR PRETTY NEW AIRCRAFT...

... INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FREEZING IT IN PLACE!

AS EVER, FEARLESS, YOUR WISH...!

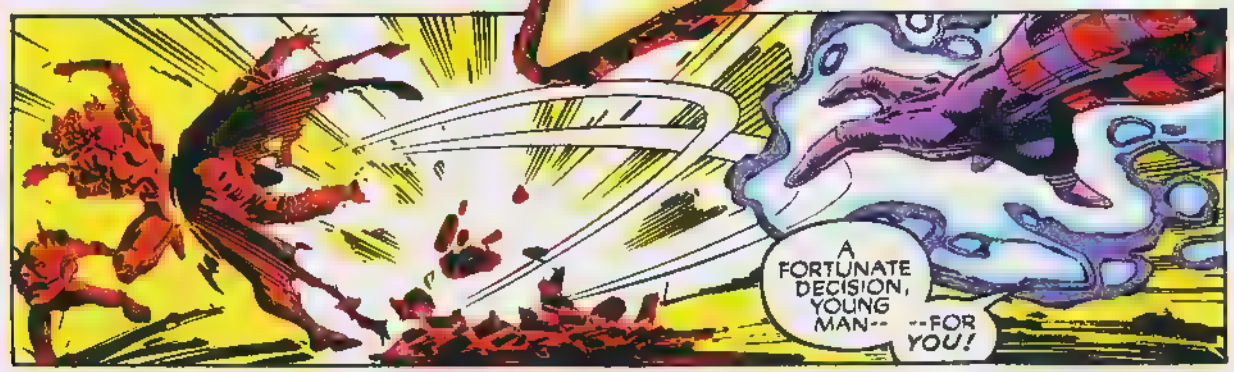
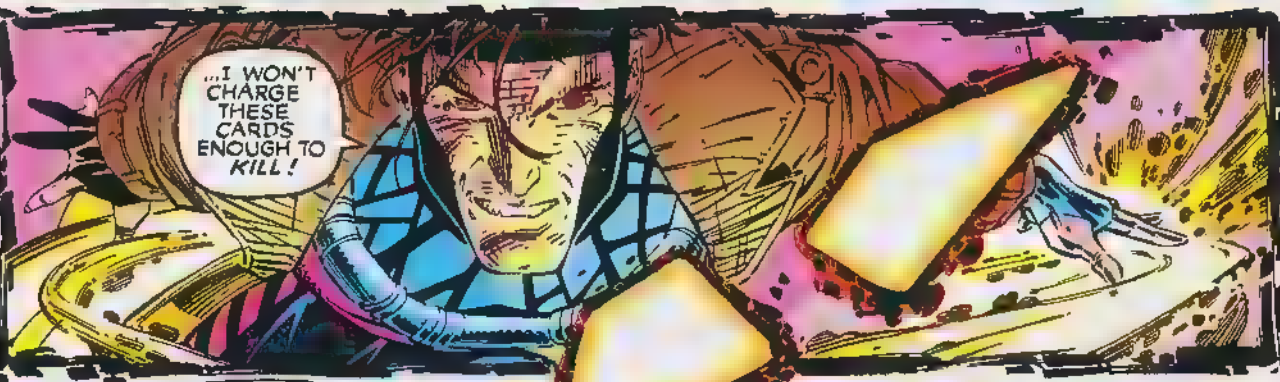
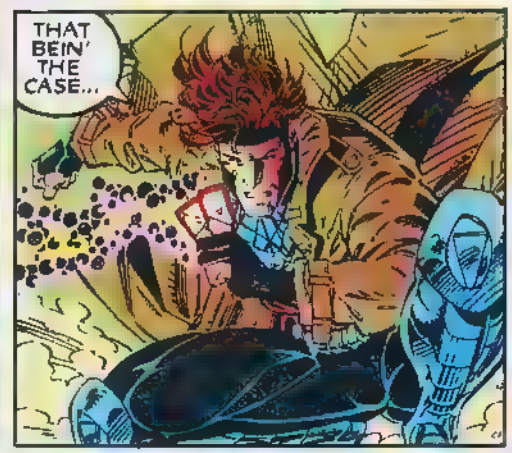
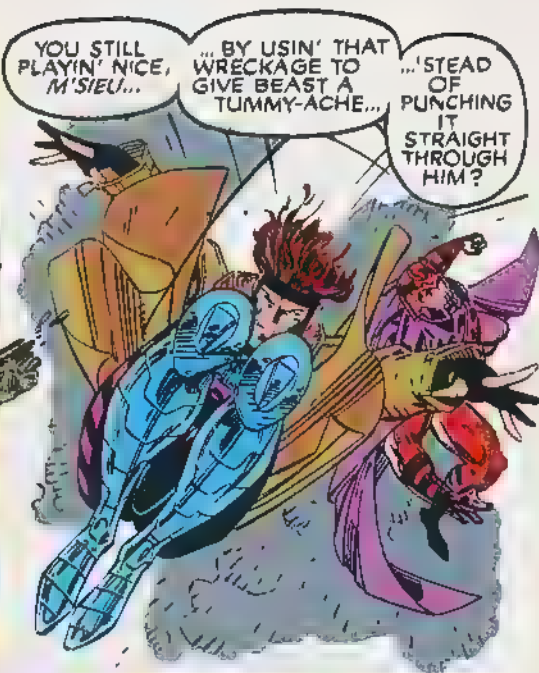
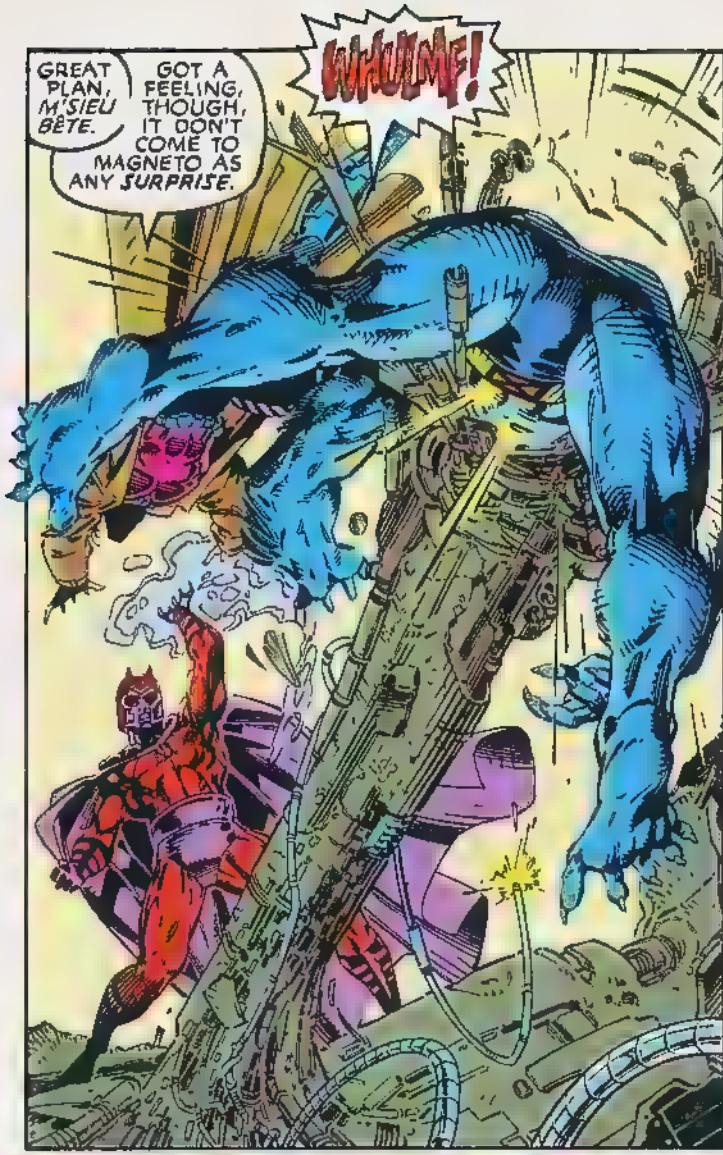
STICK WITH ME, GAMBIT. WATCH AND LEARN

SNAPPY PATTY, MON AMI, I CAN PROVIDE BY MYSELF.

WORDS ARE BUT THE ACCENTS TO ACTION--

-- WHICH, IN THIS CASE, CONSISTS OF DISTRACTING OUR FOE SUFFICIENTLY..

... FOR OUR BLACKBIRD TO SLIP FREE OF HIS MAGNETIC FORCE BUBBLE

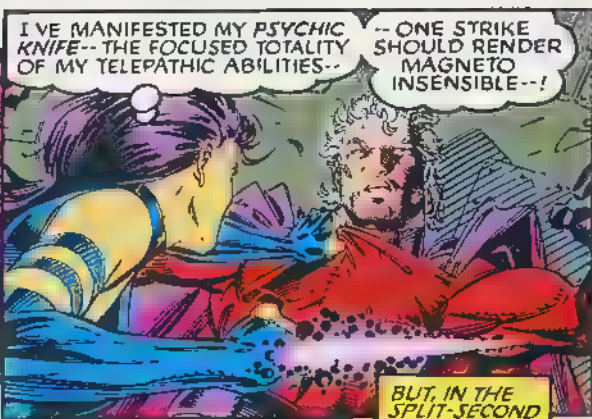




GOT HIM!

BLAST! HIS COSTUME IS A FORM OF BODY ARMOR-- THAT, COMBINED WITH HIS HELMET...

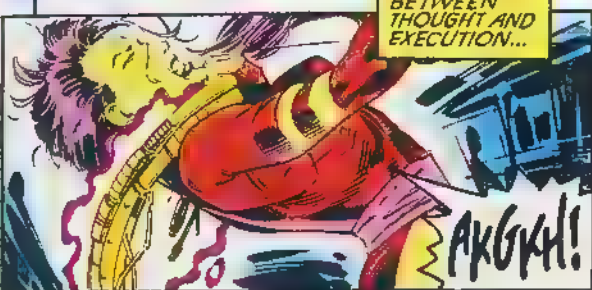
...BLUNTED THE FORCE OF MY ATTACK!



I'VE MANIFESTED MY PSYCHIC KNIFE-- THE FOCUSED TOTALITY OF MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES--

-- ONE STRIKE SHOULD RENDER MAGNETO INSENSIBLE--!

BUT, IN THE SPLIT-SECOND BETWEEN THOUGHT AND EXECUTION...



AKGKH!



HAVE YOU X-MEN ALL GONE MAD?!

I SAID I MEANT YOU NO HARM, WHY DO YOU ASSAULT ME--

--GOOD LORD!

MAYBE 'CAUSE THE WORDS DON'T MATTER...

AS MUCH AS THE HEART AN' SOUL OF THE PERSON SPEAKIN' 'EM!

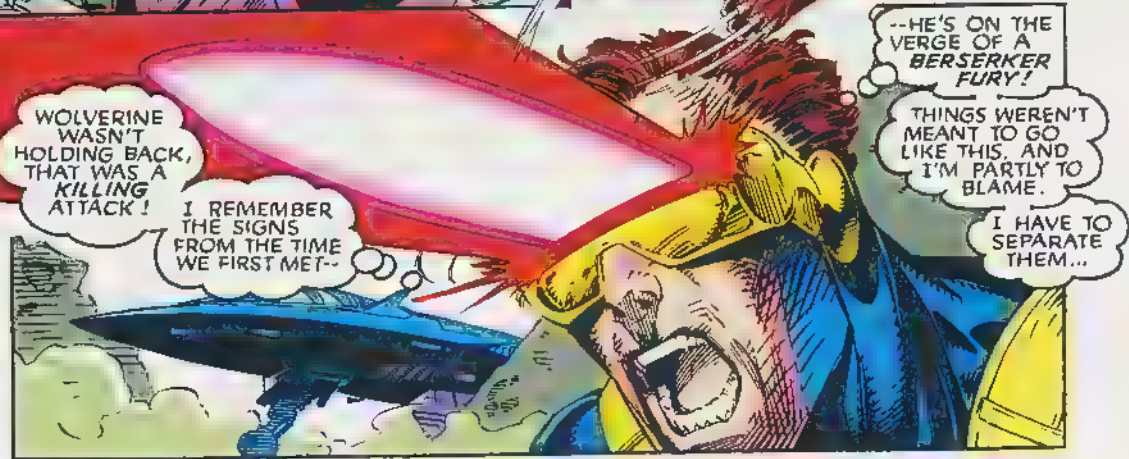
WOLVERINE WASN'T HOLDING BACK, THAT WAS A KILLING ATTACK!

I REMEMBER THE SIGNS FROM THE TIME WE FIRST MET--

--HE'S ON THE VERGE OF A BERSERKER FURY!

THINGS WEREN'T MEANT TO GO LIKE THIS, AND I'M PARTLY TO BLAME.

I HAVE TO SEPARATE THEM...



"... BEFORE
THINGS
GET ANY
MORE
OUT OF
HAND! "

SO! OUR COMRADESHIP
MEANS NOTHING--

--BY THE
ETERNAL!?!

THE SUB-
MARINE--

--ITS
CREW
--!

SOME DIED IN A
BLINDING INSTANT, AS
THE HULL COLLAPSED
AND THE SEA RUSHED IN
TO CLAIM THEIR LIVES.

OTHERS, IN THE COMPART-
MENTS WHICH DIDN'T
RUPTURE...

...FACED THE SLOWER
OBLIVION OF
ASPHYXIATION.

ALL THIS TIME, HE'D
THOUGHT ABOUT THEM
IN ABSTRACT. PAWNS
INSTEAD OF MEN.

NOW THOUGH, AT LAST, HE
FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO
FACE WITH THE CONSE-
QUENCE OF HIS ACTS.

AND HE REMEMBERS
ANOTHER TIME OTHER
BODIES. BONES STILL
COATED WITH THE
FLESH OF FAMILY AND
FRIENDS, TOSSED INTO
A LIME-SOAKED PIT
AND HIM ALONG WITH
THEM, ONLY HE WAS
STILL ALIVE.

SOMEHOW,
HE CLAWED
HIS WAY
TO THE
SURFACE.

HIS WILL TO SURVIVE
AS INDOMITABLE
THEN AS NOW.

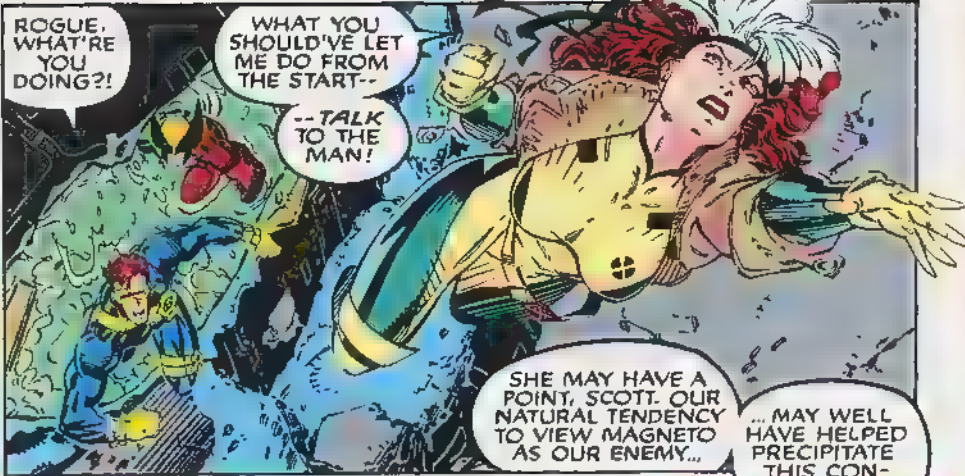
YOU
CHOOSE TO
SEE ME
SOLELY AS
THE MAN
I WAS

IS THAT
THEN
WHAT
I AM?!

STAY
AWAY!



IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, X-MEN--
--LEAVE ME BE!



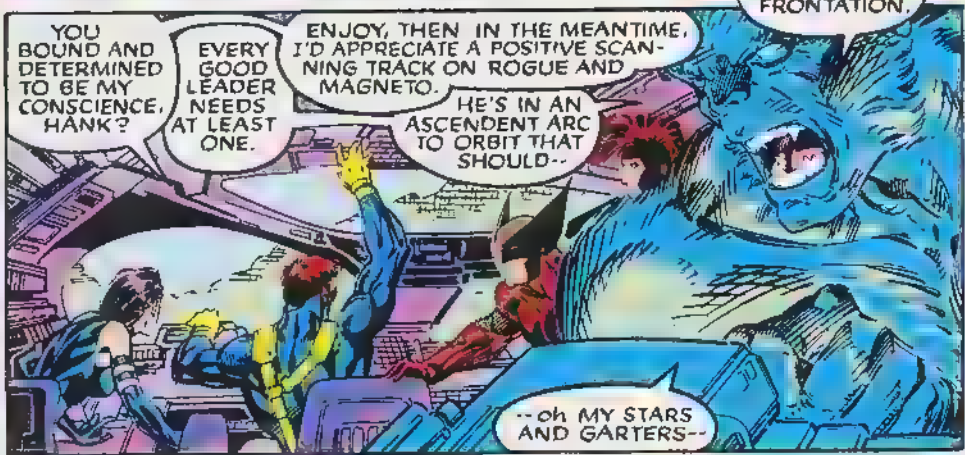
ROGUE, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

WHAT YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME DO FROM THE START--

--TALK TO THE MAN!

SHE MAY HAVE A POINT, SCOTT. OUR NATURAL TENDENCY TO VIEW MAGNETO AS OUR ENEMY...

... MAY WELL HAVE HELPED PRECIPITATE THIS CONFRONTATION.



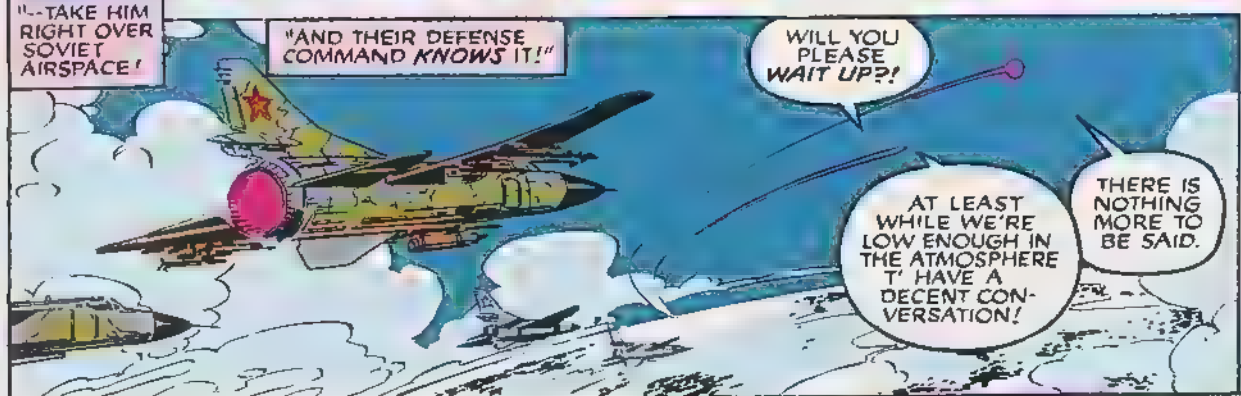
YOU BOUND AND DETERMINED TO BE MY CONSCIENCE, HANK?

EVERY GOOD LEADER NEEDS AT LEAST ONE.

ENJOY, THEN IN THE MEANTIME, I'D APPRECIATE A POSITIVE SCANNING TRACK ON ROGUE AND MAGNETO.

HE'S IN AN ASCENDANT ARC TO ORBIT THAT SHOULD--

--oh MY STARS AND GARTERS--



"--TAKE HIM RIGHT OVER SOVIET AIRSPACE!"

"AND THEIR DEFENSE COMMAND KNOWS IT!"

WILL YOU PLEASE WAIT UP?!

AT LEAST WHILE WE'RE LOW ENOUGH IN THE ATMOSPHERE I'VE GOT A DECENT CONVERSATION!

THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO BE SAID.



GET REAL!

WHAT, YOU NEVER MADE A MISTAKE IN YOUR LIFE? YOU NEVER COMMITTED AN ACT THAT MIGHT SOMEHOW BE MIS-INTERPRETED?

MAYBE CYKE HANDLED THINGS WRONG

MAYBE SEEIN' YOU ABOUT TO HAUL OFF A CARGO OF NUKES GAVE HIM CAUSE!

DON'T YOU SEE? YOU'VE GOT EV'RYBODY SPOOKED!

MAGNETO. MOSTLY FOLKS KNOW YOU AS THE WORLD CLASS MUTIE TERRORIST. YOU'RE THE **BOOGIE-MAN** THAT'S USED TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE ABOUT US.

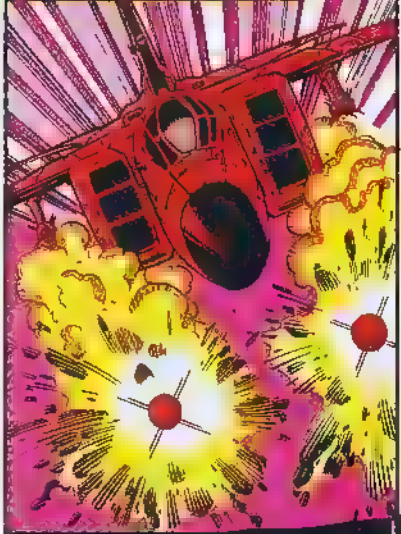
BY ACTIN' THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...

YOU'RE PROVIN' 'EM RIGHT!

I TRIED TO CHANGE, I DID MY BEST TO FOLLOW XAVIER'S PATH TO A PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN **HOMO SAPIENS** AND **HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR**

AND PAID FOR THAT FOLLY WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS.

"SO YOU FIGURE, WHAT THERE'S NOTHIN' GOOD CAN COME O' THIS, AH MIGHT AS WELL **GIVE UP?**"



YOU EVER CONSIDER, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A LITTLE HA

ARRGH!

ROGUE!

THERE IS YOUR ANSWER, CHILD, AND MINE!

WHATEVER WE DECIDE, THE WORLD WILL NEVER ACCEPT US.

THEY MEAN ONLY OUR **DESTRUCTION**, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A **SPECIES!**

BUT AT LEAST HERE, I CAN SAVE ONE!

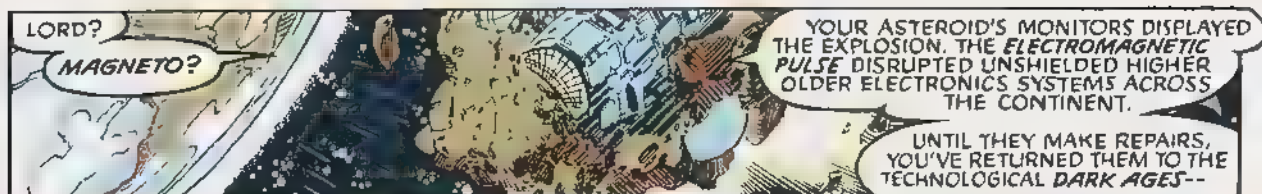
MY LORD DEAR LORD NO!

HANK, WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT'S THAT FLASH?

AN UPPER-ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR DETONATION, AT LEAST A MEGATON IN YIELD

MAGNETO'S FIRED ONE OF THE MISSILES

BUT-- WHAT ABOUT **ROGUE?!!**



LORD?

MAGNETO?

YOUR ASTEROID'S MONITORS DISPLAYED THE EXPLOSION. THE **ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE** DISRUPTED UNSHIELDED HIGHER OLDER ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

UNTIL THEY MAKE REPAIRS, YOU'VE RETURNED THEM TO THE **TECHNOLOGICAL DARK AGES--**



--LORD?!

MAGNETO--
YOU'RE
HURT!

WOLVERINE'S
CLAWS.

THAT
DEVIL!

I THOUGHT MY ARMOR PROOF AGAINST ANY ASSAULT ON THE OTHER HAND, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IT PREVENTED THE X-MAN'S CLAWS FROM CUTTING DEEPER

THERE WAS NO
HESITATION IN
HIM. NO...
MERCY.

HAD I NOT WITH-
DRAWN FROM THE
FIELD OF COMBAT,
HE WOULD NOT HAVE
STOPPED UNTIL ONE
OF US WAS SLAIN



FROM CYCLOPS,
I EXPECTED THAT
HE HAS NEVER
TRUSTED ME, AND
NEVER WILL.

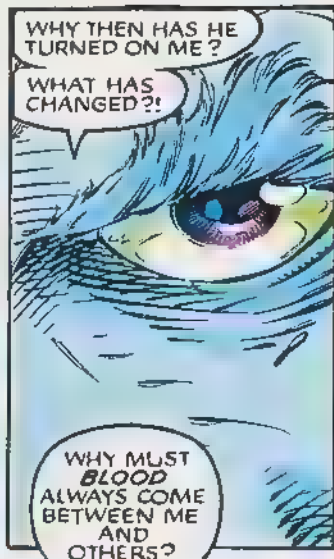
BUT
WOLVERINE

I HAVE
FOUGHT BY HIS
SIDE. FOR THE
BRIEF TIME I
WORKED WITH THE
X-MEN, HE ACCEPTED
ME WHOLEHEARTEDLY
IF NOT AS A FRIEND,
THEN AT LEAST
AS A COMRADE-
IN-ARMS

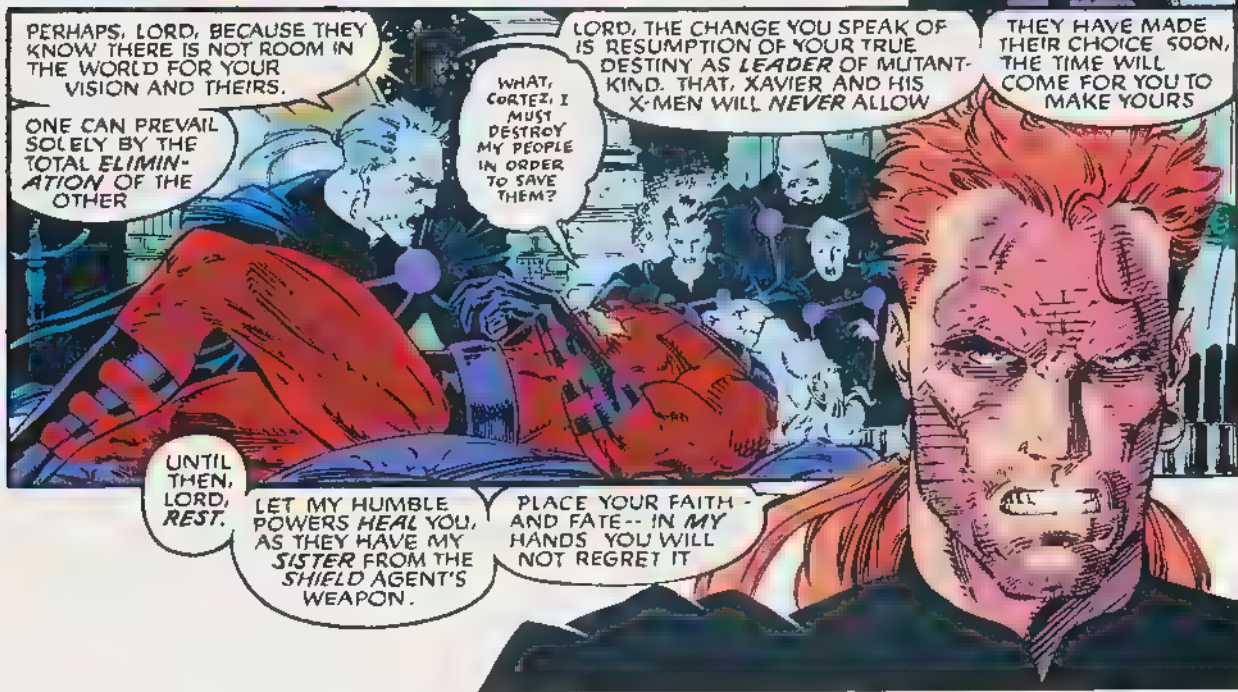
WHY THEN HAS HE
TURNED ON ME?

WHAT HAS
CHANGED?!

WHY MUST
BLOOD
ALWAYS COME
BETWEEN ME
AND
OTHERS?



KOFF KAFF
GAGK
KOFF
KAFF



PERHAPS, LORD, BECAUSE THEY
KNOW THERE IS NOT ROOM IN
THE WORLD FOR YOUR
VISION AND THEIRS.

ONE CAN PREVAIL
SOLELY BY THE
TOTAL ELIMIN-
ATION OF THE
OTHER

UNTIL
THEN,
LORD,
REST.

LET MY HUMBLE
POWERS HEAL YOU,
AS THEY HAVE MY
SISTER FROM THE
SHIELD AGENT'S
WEAPON.

PLACE YOUR FAITH-
AND FATE-- IN MY
HANDS YOU WILL
NOT REGRET IT

LORD, THE CHANGE YOU SPEAK OF
IS RESUMPTION OF YOUR TRUE
DESTINY AS **LEADER** OF MUTANT-
KIND. THAT, XAVIER AND HIS
X-MEN WILL NEVER ALLOW

WHAT,
CORTEZ, I
MUST
DESTROY
MY PEOPLE
IN ORDER
TO SAVE
THEM?

THEY HAVE MADE
THEIR CHOICE SOON,
THE TIME WILL
COME FOR YOU TO
MAKE YOURS

THE TERRESTRIAL STRATOSPHERE...

OUR ON-BOARD SENSORS ARE WORKING PERFECTLY, SCOTT. I'M SCANNING TO THE LIMIT OF THEIR RANGE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ROGUE.

THAT ISN'T HELPFUL, HANK.

I'M AFRAID, CYCLOPS, MY NEWS ISN'T MUCH BETTER.

I HAD A SENSE OF HER CONSCIOUSNESS-- THERE WAS SHOCK AND PAIN. SHE'D JUST BEEN STRUCK.

BY MAGNETO?

POSSIBLY.

BUT I LOST HER IN THE CONFUSION OF THE BLAST.

I BELIEVE SHE MAY BE ALIVE, BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE

PROFESSOR XAVIER-- CONTACTING US TELEPATHICALLY!

X-MEN!

BREAK OFF YOUR SEARCH. I HAVE A LOCATION ON ROGUE. SHE IS ALIVE AND ESSENTIALLY WELL.

YOU PIN POINTED HER WITH CEREBO, SIR?

ACTUALLY, CYCLOPS, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL INFORMING ME OF HER WHEREABOUTS.

"IN THE CITY OF HAMMER BAY..."

"CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND NATION OF GENOSHA."

BOOM!

WHOA!

OH! OH! OW!

SORRY ABOUT THE SMELL, X-MAN. WE HAD TO USE A WHIFF OF AMMONIA TO WAKE YOU.

YOU'RE ANDERSON

CHIEF MAGISTRATE, YES. YOU REMEMBER ME

THIS A PRISON HOSPITAL?

THE ORDINARY VARIETY CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, GENOSHA REALLY IS A FREE COUNTRY.

EVEN FOR MUTANTS?

WE NEED YOU, ROGUE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HURT.

A SUPER-POWERED TERRORIST CADRE'S STAGING RANDOM ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

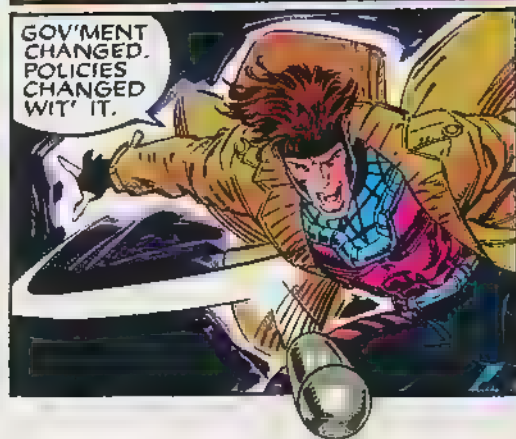
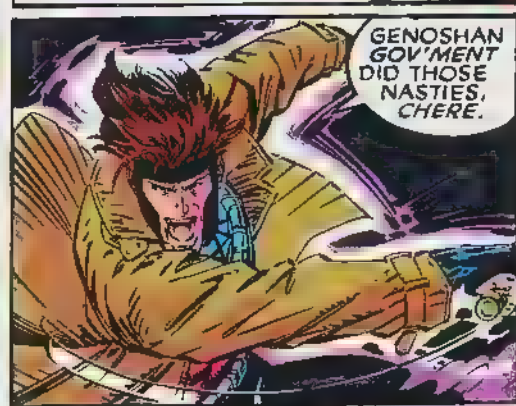
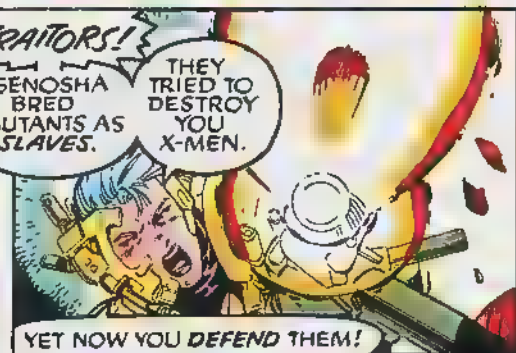
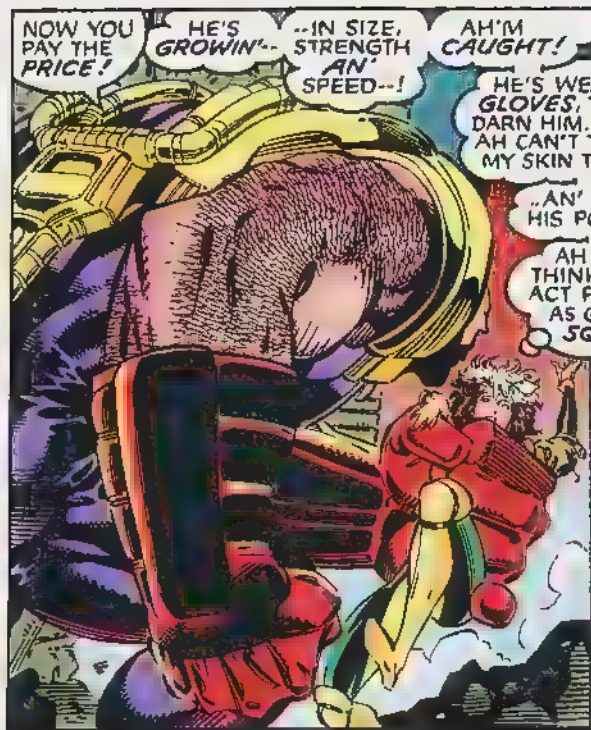
MY MAGISTRATES CAN'T COPE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW, ROGUE, SINCE YOU X-MEN HELPED BRING THAT ABOUT

WHAT'S THAT?!

INNOCENT LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST.

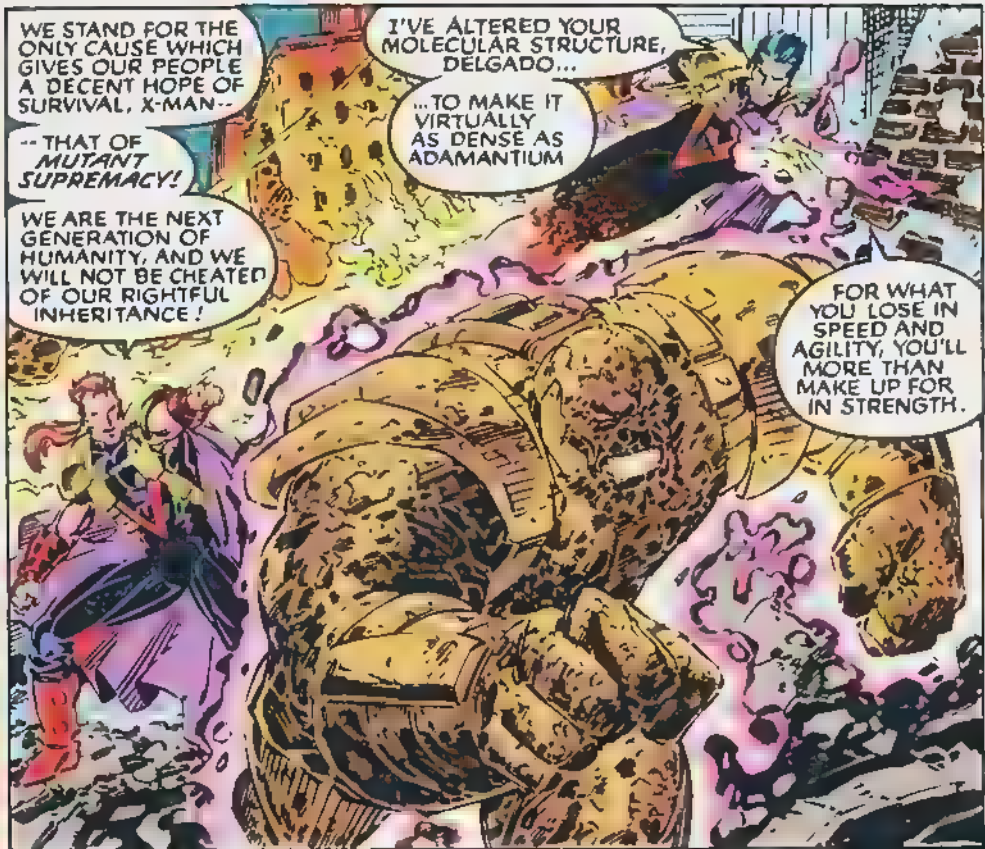






B'SIDES, WAY WE HEAR YOU TALKIN' T' ROGUE...

...DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU MUCH BETTER.



WE STAND FOR THE ONLY CAUSE WHICH GIVES OUR PEOPLE A DECENT HOPE OF SURVIVAL, X-MAN--

-- THAT OF **MUTANT SUPREMACY!**

WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY, AND WE WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF OUR RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE!

I'VE ALTERED YOUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE, DELGADO...

...TO MAKE IT VIRTUALLY AS DENSE AS ADAMANTIUM

FOR WHAT YOU LOSE IN SPEED AND AGILITY, YOU'LL MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR IN STRENGTH.



"DELGADO"? THERE WAS A MAJOR DURING THE SHIELD PURSUIT FORCE THAT WAS CAPTURED BY MAGNETO COINCIDENCE?

DIFFERENT GUY, SAME NAME.

OR MAYBE THE MAJOR WAS A SLEEPER, WORKIN' WITH THE CLOWNS HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY CHASIN'?

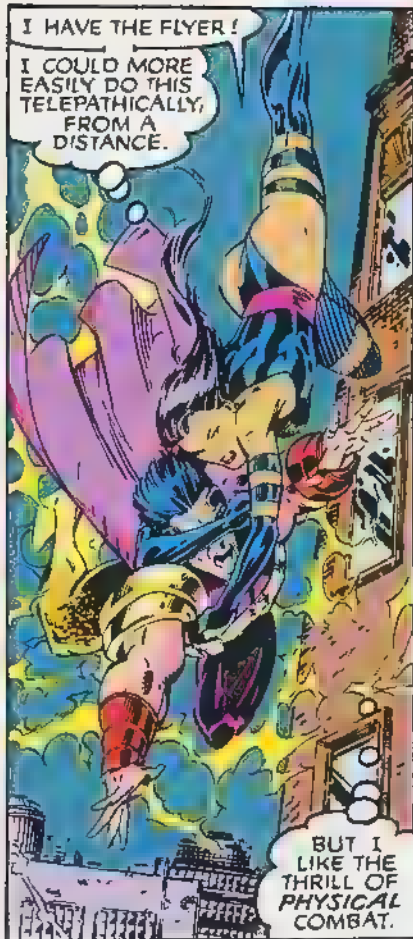
OR MAYBE HE SWITCHED SIDES.

OR MAYBE SOMEBODY MADE HIM



HOWEVER THE MAN CAME HERE, BEAST, HE MEANS BUSINESS.

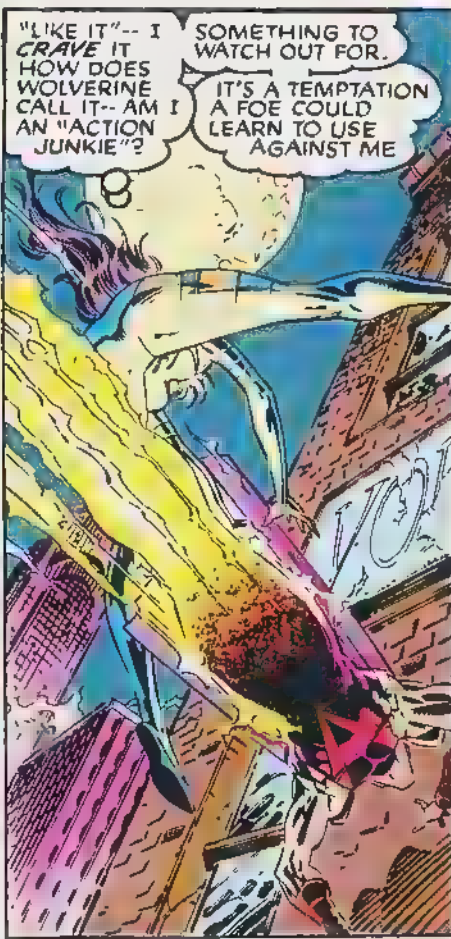
WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE BACK STORY AFTER WE TAKE HIM DOWN.



I HAVE THE FLYER!

I COULD MORE EASILY DO THIS TELEPATHICALLY, FROM A DISTANCE.

BUT I LIKE THE THRILL OF PHYSICAL COMBAT.



"LIKE IT"-- I CRAVE IT HOW DOES WOLVERINE CALL IT-- AM I AN "ACTION JUNKIE"?

SOMETHING TO WATCH OUT FOR.

IT'S A TEMPTATION A FOE COULD LEARN TO USE AGAINST ME



POOR DEAR. I CLOUDED HIS MIND JUST ENOUGH...

...TO MAKE HIM THINK HE WAS RACING FOR OPEN SKY.

THE IMPACT ISN'T FATAL, BUT AFTER ALL THE HARM THESE WRETCHES HAVE ALREADY CAUSED, I DEARLY HOPE IT HURTS



I CAN'T PLACE THE FACE, BUB, BUT YOUR SCENT'S AWFULLY FAMILIAR.

GIVEN THE CHEAP CIGARS YOU FAVOR, MISANTHROPE...

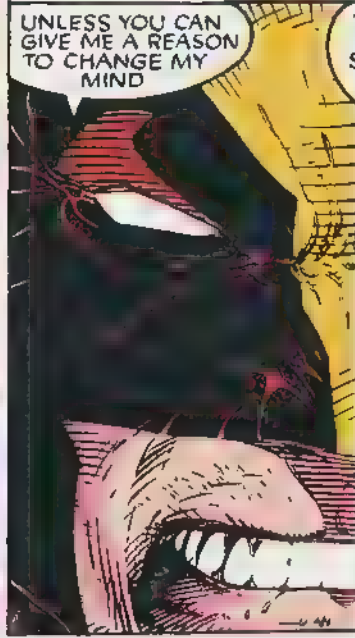
...I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SMELL ANYTHING AT ALL.

WOLVERINE! HE'S THE LEADER, WE NEED HIM ALIVE!



THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION.

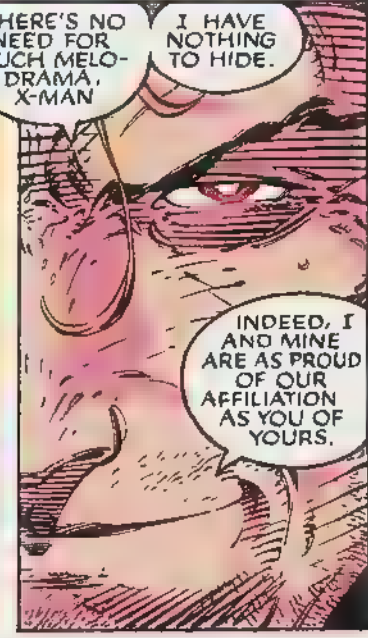
AN' AT THE MOMENT, MINE'S AS NEGATIVE AS IT GETS.



UNLESS YOU CAN GIVE ME A REASON TO CHANGE MY MIND

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH MELODRAMA, X-MAN

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.



INDEED, I AND MINE ARE AS PROUD OF OUR AFFILIATION AS YOU OF YOURS.



Cyclops!

MAGNETO!

ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION, THESE ACOLYTES HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO MY CAUSE AND SERVICE

I SHALL NOT ABANDON THEM, ESPECIALLY FOR WHAT PASSES FOR JUSTICE IN A SLAVE STATE SUCH AS GENOSHA.

WITH YOUR POWER, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD EASILY REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE--

ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED WHOLESLE FOR NO MORE REASON THAN THE DEITY THEY WORSHIPPED, OR THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN-- OR THE PRESENCE IN THEIR DNA OF AN EXTRA, SPECIAL GENE.

I CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD BUT I CAN-- AND WILL-- ENSURE THAT MY RACE WILL NEVER AGAIN SUFFER FOR ITS FEAR AND PREJUDICE

HENCEFORTH, I DECLARE ASTEROID M A SOVEREIGN WORLD HOME AND HAVEN TO MUTANT-KIND.

IF YOU ARE BORN HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR, THEN YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY A CITIZEN, ENTITLED TO SAFE HAVEN ABOVE AND SECURITY BELOW.

ONLY MAGISTRATES WERE SLAIN OR INJURED. I COULD SAY THAT IS MERELY JUST RETRIBUTION FOR THE HORRORS THEY INFLECTED UNTIL RECENTLY ON GENOSHA'S MUTANT CITIZENRY.

THEY ACTED IN AN EXCESS OF ZEAL, THAT IS WRONG. AND SINCE I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS, HOWEVER MISGUIDED, I SHALL DETERMINE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

-- BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVES THAT WERE LOST, HOW DO YOU PUT THAT RIGHT?

LAWS WRITTEN BY HUMANS FOR HUMANS, WOLVERINE, AS OUT-OF-DATE AS THE RACE THAT CREATED THEM. A NEW GENERATION IS BEING BORN, AND WITH IT MUST COME A NEW WORLD ORDER

WHAT WE GOT HERE, BUB, A NEW TWIST ON THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS?

YOU FIGURE, SINCE YOU LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD, THAT PUTS YOU ABOVE ITS LAW AS WELL?

EVEN YOU X-MEN-- EVEN YOUR MENTOR, MY OLD FRIEND, CHARLES XAVIER-- ARE WELCOME HERE

BUT MARK THIS AND MARK IT WELL--

-- HARM DONE AGAINST ANY MUTANT IS HARM DONE TO ME.

AND I SHALL RESPOND ACCORDINGLY

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE GREAT POWERS ARE GOIN' T SIT STILL F'R SUCH AN ULTIMATUM SOME IDIOT SOMEWHERE'S SURE T' CHALLENGE HIM AN' THEN, I FEAR, WE'LL SEE SOME FIREWORKS

SORRY T' INTRUDE DR. MacTAggart, MA'AM, BUT YE'VE BEEN CLOSETED DOWN IN YOUR LAB F'R SO LONG, WITHOUT WORD OR EVEN A BITE T' EAT, I WAS STARTIN' T' WORRY

MOIRA? WHAT AILS YOU ACCUSHA? HAVE YE BEEN CRYIN'?

Oh SEAN, FORGIVE ME

I DINNA KEN WHAT COULD'VE POSSESSED ME LORD MY LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

THIS TERRIBLE THING THAT'S HAPPENING--

-- BANSHEE, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

NEXT:

FIRESTORM!



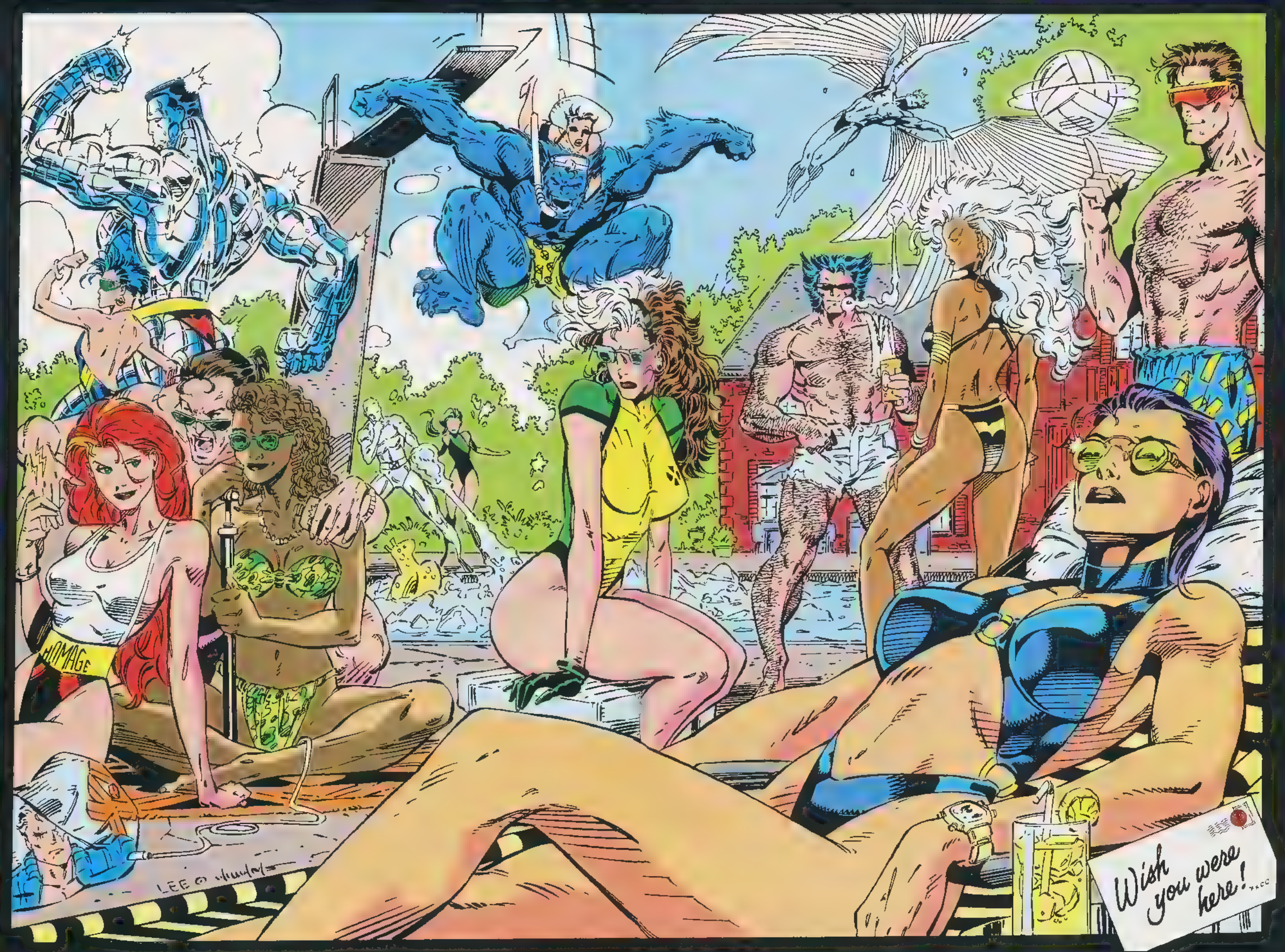
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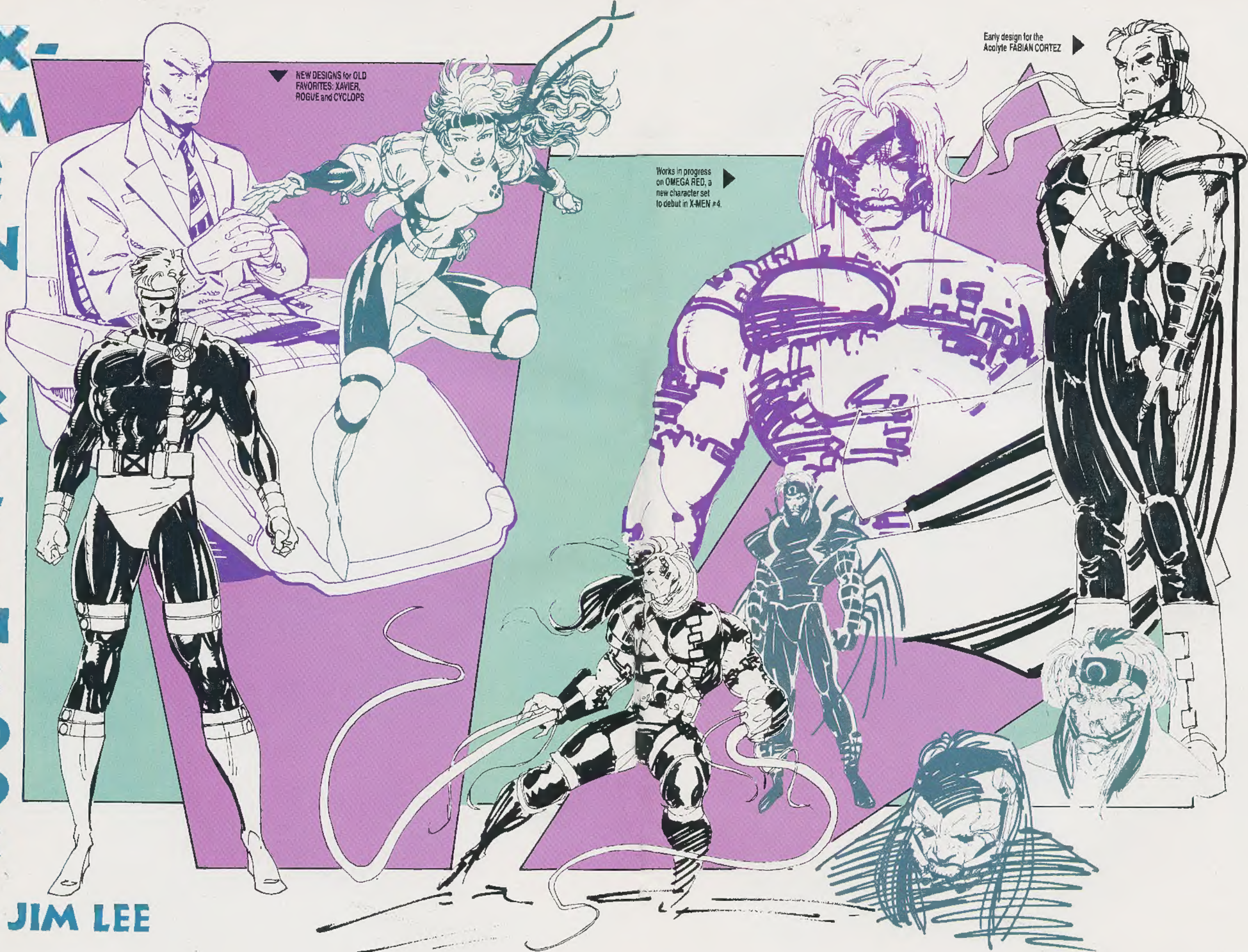
X-MEN SKETCHBOOK

BY JIM LEE

NEW DESIGNS for OLD
FAVORITES: XAVIER,
ROGUE and CYCLOPS

Works in progress
on OMEGA RED, a
new character set
to debut in X-MEN #4.

Early design for the
Acolyte FABIAN CORTEZ



The
EXCITEMENT
NEVER ENDS!
THE STORY
CONTINUES in
X-MEN #2!





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